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Renting a messy basement suite for 60 years

Jan. 24, 2008 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Vol. 60, No. 20 | www.martlet.ca

Eviction deals blow

Saanich bylaw won't allow more than four students per house

Sean Peterson

Students are being evicted from their rented home for violating a controversial restriction in Saanich zoning bylaws that limits the number of unrelated residents in a home.

"Even though there are nine bedrooms, and plenty of room for all of us, we're not a family so we're not allowed [to live together]," explained Hilary Duinker, a resident of the home on the 1800-block of Haultain Street.

Despite the home's 4,000 square feet, the house can't legally accommodate more than four unrelated residents under a Saanich bylaw, which says it's illegal for a family dwelling to house more four unrelated residents, regardless of the property size or number of bedrooms. Secondary suites — self-contained living areas typically rented out to students or families — are also illegal in Saanich according to zoning bylaws.

Duinker takes issue with the restrictions that led to the evictions, pointing out that many Saanich residents rent out their homes and suites to students. Such arrangements often make student living easier by providing necessary accommodation at an affordable rate.

"It's a dumb law if no one is [abiding by] it and no one believes that it's worthwhile," said Duinker.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has pushed for municipalities to drop restrictions against

See Plan may call for bylaw, p. 2

JESSE CATHCART PHOTO

Residents of a Saanich house (from left) Seth Wright, Hillary Duinker, Zoe Broersma, Laura DelCampo, Ali Essa and Pauline Kendall face eviction at the end of the semester after noise and partying complaints reached the municipality.

Students allege sexual misconduct cover-up

Court documents claim homestay 'indecently touched' billet during trip to Ecuador

Melanie Tromp

Two UVic students are taking an international travel company to court over breach of contract after the firm allegedly expelled them from a volunteer trip to Ecuador last summer.

Both students, as well as a third student from the University of Toronto, are suing the California-based International Student Volunteers Inc. for damages related to a complaint of alleged sexual misconduct during their brief stay in Quito, the South American nation's capital. At the plaintiff's request, the Martlet is not naming the students.

In a Jan. 22 statement by International Student Volunteers lawyer Karla Shippey, the company denied many of the charges and claims that the plaintiffs willfully left the scheduled trip, choosing instead to "see Ecuador on their own."

The plaintiffs, one male and two female, filed a statement of claim in B.C. Supreme Court on Jan. 3 asserting that International Student Volunteers representatives bullied the students out of their prepaid program after the UVic pair's assigned homestay, Marcelo Cevallos, allegedly committed two indecent sexual acts on the female students in the late evening of July 27.

Cevallos allegedly exposed himself to one woman and "indecently touched" the other female student, according to the plaintiffs' Vancouver-based lawyer, Douglas Morley.

According to the statement of claim, when the victims approached International Student Volunteers' Quito-based agent, Mario Molina, about Cevallos' behaviour the next day, the company representative allegedly said the matter had to be dealt with internally and threatened to expel the students if they did not cooperate with him before seeking legal advice. Instead, the women contacted the Canadian embassy in Quito and hired a lawyer.

After hearing that the plaintiffs intended to pursue a police complaint, Molina allegedly warned the students that Cevallos may counter their charge with a claim of sexual misconduct.

Shippey refuted all charges against Molina, adding that the staff member took the plaintiffs' accusations seriously and attempted to assist the students on several occasions up until July 29. Shippey also defended Cevallos, saying the host father has been in good standing with the program for more than two years and consistently receives high marks from program participants.

According to the writ, the plaintiffs phoned Randy Sykes, the company's international director, at his California office on July 27. Sykes, who is named as a defendant, allegedly overruled Molina, vowing the company's support for the plaintiffs in seeking legal action and reassuring the students that they would not be expelled from the program.

On July 28, Molina purportedly booted the plaintiffs out of the program on the grounds that they had willingly entered into a "lengthy legal process," and rendering the students responsible for all costs during the remainder of their time in Ecuador.

On Aug. 6, International Student Volunteers' lawyers refused to compensate these costs despite an Aug. 1 demand from the students' Canadian lawyers. The company's legal team alleged that the plaintiffs had been involved in "loud sexual activity" and thus were terminated from the program without refund.

See Company lawyer, p. 2

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Company lawyer denies students were expelled

But Shippey's Jan. 22 statement denied the students were ever terminated from the program, although she continued to allege the occurrence of the sexual activity, noting it was disrespectful to the host family and associated staff.

According to Morley, no clause regarding "loud sexual activity" exists in his clients' contracts.

"We feel that the company kicked [the plaintiffs] out because they simply didn't want to deal with a sexual misconduct case," said Morley. "They wanted to cover up this case and didn't expect the students to do anything about it when they got home.

"Basically, [the company] is trying to protect a person who has acted improperly with his guests."

The students are seeking full refunds (to the tune of roughly $4,300 each) and general, aggravated, exemplary and punitive damages after supposedly being ignored by International Student Volunteers officials in both Quito and California. The company's legal team received the plaintiffs' claim on Jan. 22.

According to the court document, International Student Volunteers solicits student participation through numerous Canadian universities, including an international program co-ordinator residing in Victoria. The firm has booked space in the Student Union Building for information sessions on their programming in the past, though the local coordinator was not named in the writ and could not be reached for comment on the company's connection to UVic.

A HOGTIED SUCCESS

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

UVic visual arts student Lauren Mahon uses her body as a plate during her wildly popular act, "Frances' Doughnut Extravaganza." Members of the audience were encouraged to eat doughnuts off Mahon's body after she stripped down to a bikini and fishnet stockings. Her performance was part of Hogtied, a show at the Victoria Events Centre on Jan. 15.

"The first time I did this performance was in front of my professor and classmates. It was much more dignified then" said Mahon. "This time it was much in the theme of the night of lawlessness."

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Jan. 7, 2005 — Former UVic presdient David Strong was set to charge double UVic's tuition fees to students entering studies at Victoria's first private university, University Canada West. Now president of University Canada West, Strong said the September to August system that let students complete degrees in three years was the justification for $10,000 per year tuition fees. Strong once wrote a paper arguing for zero tuition fees.

Jan. 24, 1985 — A Jan. 9 senate meeting resulted in the elimination of all sexist language in the 1985-86 univeristy calendar. The issue was first raised at a Nov. 8 facutly of law meeting.

Jan. 27, 1972 — The executive council of the student union considered purchasing a "miniature putt-putt course" for the university, as part of a $65,750 plan that would see elaboarte golf facilities constructed on vacant university property.

The plan included a pitch and putt course and a driving range.

Do you like to take photographs? Get in touch. We'll get you published. Contact Ahmed at photo@martlet.ca

Continued from p. 1

Plan may call for bylaw change

secondary suites over the past year as part of their Housing Affordability Strategy. Saanich is now one of few municipalities that still outlaws them.

"I'm a big believer in secondary suites — it's one of the prime vehicles to address affordable housing in the region," said CRD senior manager Henry Kamphof.

Saanich is expected to release the draft of its 2008 Official Community Plan this month, and Kamphof said he hopes it will announce a change to the zoning bylaw to allow suites. Kamphof said it would help the region use "the biggest community asset we have in a more effective, proper, and constructive way."

"There are more empty bedrooms in this region than used bedrooms," he said.

The Haultain property has been rented by students for almost a decade, and has accommodated as many as 13 residents, including three couples.

But after a house party got out of control in October and resulted in police stunning resident Manuel Rochette with a Taser, police reported the residency violation they discovered.

Bylaw enforcement is reactive, not proactive, said senior bylaw enforcement officer Doug Roberts. The municipality doesn't hunt out violations, but will respond to complaints by police and the public. Once a complaint has been registered, it will be inspected and acted upon if any bylaw violations are found.

Students living in an illegal suite, or in a rented home with more than four unrelated residents, will only face problems if someone complains.

"[The police] have a file on us," said Duinker. "We've had quite a few really big parties ... like 500 people showing up. We've also had problems with people moving out, and leaving uninsured cars on the street. But all those issues were dealt with through their own bylaws, and they were remedied."

Although the residents have been fined or warned for bylaw infractions involving vehicles and noise, they were evicted under the unrelated infraction of having too many unrelated residents.

The residency restrictions written into the Saanich zoning bylaw were designed to prevent issues of "parking, parties, noise ... and general density," said enforcement officer Roberts.

Duinker and the property's owner have been in communication with the municipality to determine the future of the house's residents. Saanich has agreed to allow six students rather than four live at the house until the end of the current school year. After that, the property will need to be rezoned, or new tenants that are related will need to take over the premises.

"There are a few options, but all of them are going to involve a bunch of work and lobbying, and a fair amount of money," said Duinker. "We could apply for rezoning, but that's several thousand dollars ... and it's up to the landlady in the end."

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Donated computers mean brighter futures

Chris Perkins

SANDU SINGH PHOTO

Victor stands beside his new computer. This donation by Computers for Kids is the first of many, their founder says.

Kids without computers. Used computers collecting dust. The solution seemed obvious to Computers for Kids founders, UVic geography student Mandy Annand and recent geography grad Christos Koulas.

The group's mandate is to "recycle and rebuild old or unwanted computers, and get them out to kids who are in need of a computer." They started work in September, and with the help of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria, delivered a customized, high-quality system to a deserving family soon after Christmas.

According to his mother, 10-year-old Victor was "very, very excited" when he received his computer, which Koulas built specifically to meet Victor's needs. The system was packed with Windows XP, Microsoft Office, wireless internet access and a few games.

On the day of delivery, Annand and Koulas installed it and made sure that Victor knew how to use it.

Having a computer at home means that Victor and his family can build confidence doing all the things on a computer that many take for granted. Victor and his sister will be able to participate in computer activities with their peers that they might otherwise be excluded from.

Computers for Kids' first donation was built almost entirely from used parts donated by friends and acquaintances. Koulas tinkers with computers as a hobby, and put the system together himself. Finding recent, licensed software has been their biggest challenge to date.

Koulas and Annand both have a passion for geography, a field which uses computers heavily. Their organization is gaining momentum, and aims to build and deliver at least four more computers this year.

Computers for Kids connected with Big Brothers Big Sisters at a charity walk for at-risk children. Big Brothers Big Sisters keeps detailed information about the families they work with, and was able to identify children who would benefit most from a new computer.

Big Brothers Big Sisters executive director Rhonda Brown described Computers for Kids' donation to Victor as "a way to help a little brother, his sister and his Mom build a better future together."

Computers for Kids is currently looking for volunteers and donations of money, software and equipment. Licensed copies of Windows XP and Microsoft Office are particularly welcome. They can be reached at computers4kids@telus.net.

Student input sought on Canada's foreign policy

Saje FitzGerald

Canada's World will be at UVic on Jan. 30 to launch a coast-to-coast citizen's discussion on international policy.

Created by Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue, Canada's World works with academic and non-profit organizations. It is funded by organizations with diverse interests, from the Mosaic Institute to Mountain Equipment Co-op and CBC.

Canada's World is inviting students to participate in a conversation that kicks off a national initiative created to get Canadians talking about our country's place in the world.

The Victoria launch is part of the UVic International Women's Rights Project's Lived Rights Lecture series. Lecture topics include globalization, aid, human rights, peacekeeping, climate change and development.

"This is such an important project — particularly for students — to engage in," said International Women's Rights Project director Susan Basilli. "It is not just about Canada's role in the world. It is fundamentally about what kind of democracy you want in Canada in your lifetime."

The Canada's World initiative seeks to bridge generations, sectors and ideologies, drawing on voices that reflect the views of Canada's diverse communities and populations. It will end with a publication that will go all the way to policy-makers on Parliament Hill later this year.

"The project acts as a potential outlet for the deep frustration many students feel after knowing they have poured their heart and soul into a brilliant term paper that only they and their professor will read," said UVic student Kate MacDonald, who is helping organize the Victoria discussion.

Shauna Sylvester, director of Canada's World, hopes the project will redefine Canada's foreign policy.

"I'm on a mission of discovery — a mission to resuscitate the heartbeat of this country and to amplify its reach beyond our borders," she said.

Sylvester's Jan. 30 presentation, Finding Canada on the Map, is the beginning of a three-year long collaborative campaign to get Canadians involved in a new narrative for Canadian international policy.

As part of the project, eight regional dialogues will be followed by the random selection of 30 Canadians to contribute to a two-day dialogue on the "new realities" Canada faces in the international world.

With Canada's increasing involvement internationally, Canada's World wants to create an inclusive collaborative network that seeks out the voices and opinions of citizens, businesses and institutions active internationally.

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in room 159 of the Fraser Building.

CLARIFICATION

The Martlet reported Jan. 17 that Native Students Union administrative councillor Ami Brosseau said, "There's almost a sense of embarassment ... there's a a culture of keeping your head down [within the indigenous community]."

The story may have left the impression that Brosseau was referring to the First People's House. In fact, Brosseau was referring to trees that were cut down in order for construction to proceed. Brosseau's name was also misspelled in the story.

NEWS BRIEF

Study seeks relief for students suffering from test anxiety

UVic is combining forces with the local therapists to launch a research project on test anxiety.

Beginning in February, 30 students will receive free treatment for test anxiety, which causes extreme stress when students even think about an exam. The group is looking for volunteers to participate in the study.

Karen Ledger, a Victoria therapist and researcher on the project, said she came up with the idea after meeting a grad student who had suffered from text anxiety since Grade 5.

"She throws up, gets sleepless nights and has anxiety at every test," said Ledger, but added there is hope in treatment.

The study will compare three therapeutic techniques known to be useful in reducing test anxiety.

For more info, go to www.testanxiety.ca.

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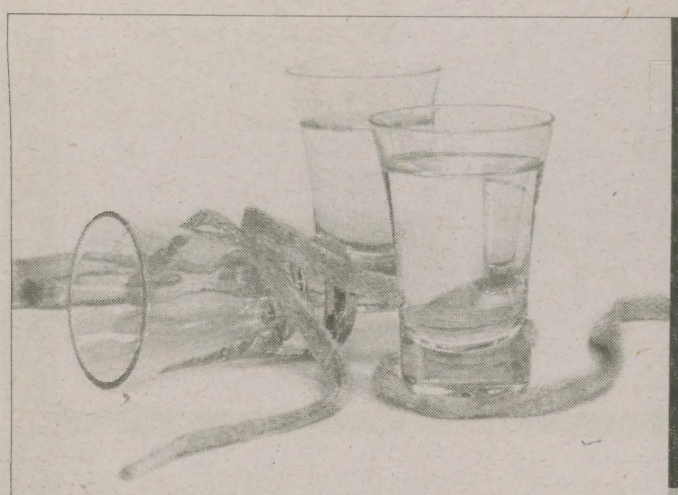

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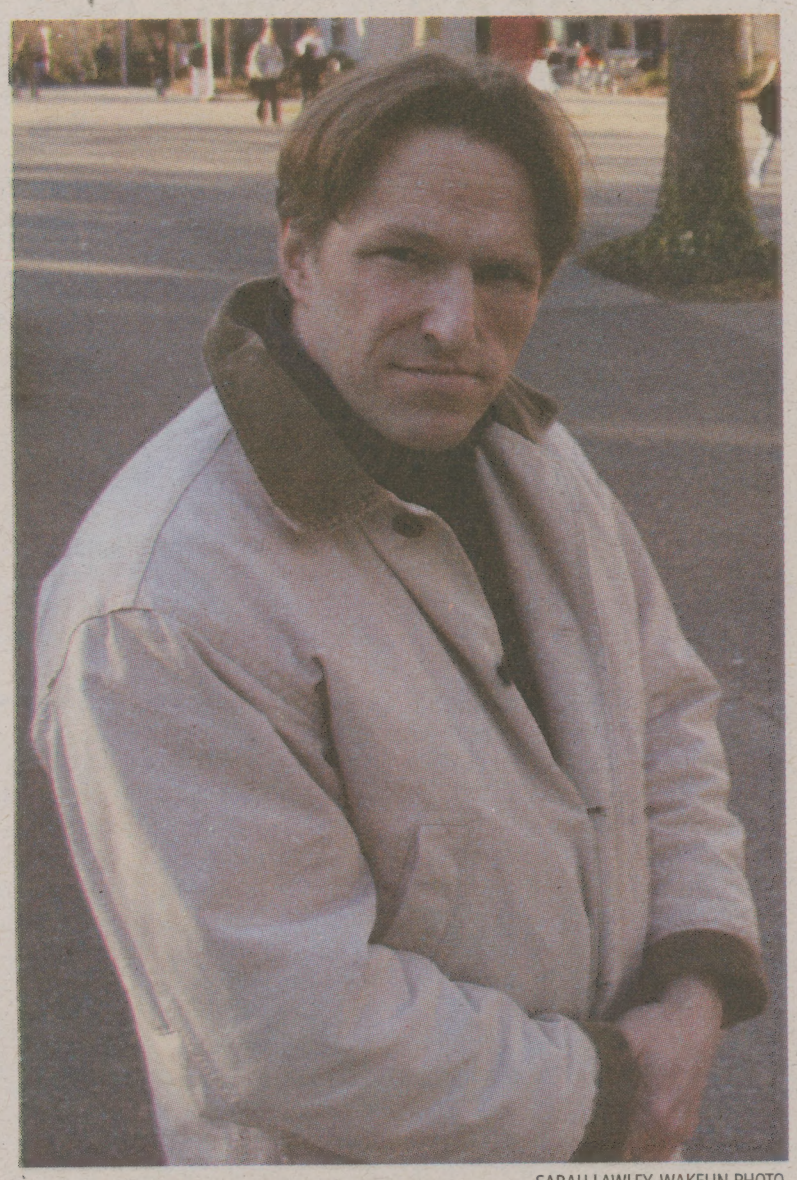
Be wary of corporate media: Charles Campbell



SARAH LAWLEY-WAKELIN PHOTO

B.C. journalist and UVic instructor Charles Campbell will delve into the state of Canadian media during a lecture on Jan. 24.

Will Johnson

Five years ago, few would have guessed the invention of the blog would threaten the stranglehold of news barons on contemporary media.

But times change. The Internet is a powerful force in journalism, with newspapers offering their content online, magazines publishing exclusive features on their websites, and bloggers reaching millions of people everyday.

"The Internet is really changing the rules, and the government has not addressed this issue in a useful or thoughtful way," said Charles Campbell, award-winning journalist and visiting UVic professor.

Campbell will share his insights next week during "News Barons vs. Internet Geeks: A Media Apocolypse?" a free public lecture on the state of mainstream journalism.

"We wanted someone in the industry to talk about things as they are now," said Lynne Van Luven, director of UVic's professional writing program.

Campbell is UVic's first Harvey Stevenson Southam Lecturer in Journalism and Non-Fiction. Part of the position involves mentoring writing students and the larger community.

"We were looking for someone outside our community to spark things up a bit," said Van Luven.

Campbell has worked as a reporter and editor for multiple publications around British Columbia, including the Vancouver Sun and Georgia Straight, and is a contributing editor for the Tyee. While some of his experiences have been positive, others have been troubling.

> "There's a lot less diversity in the newsroom."
>
> *– Charles Campbell*

"There's a lot less diversity in the newsroom," said Campbell. "It's a frustrating environment to work in."

With major corporations homogenizing their output by conglomerating, and online content providing new competition, the newsroom is evolving, said Campbell, adding that many journalists have given up if they haven't been laid off. But some print journalists have migrated online after losing faith in print journalism, he said.

"What we need, as a society, is a civic commons ... where people have different views, and are given the opportunity to share them," said Campbell. "We need to find ways to ensure there's a bigger place for a community-based media that isn't driven by the corporate bottom line."

"Last week the government decided no one person can own more than 45 percent of the television Canadians watch," Campbell said, referring to a recent decision by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. "It's a joke."

"We can't have diversity when all the owners wear the same suits, and go to the same gentleman's club," Campbell added.

While the more traditional forms of media fail to address this need, the Internet seems to be picking up the slack, Campbell noted. More readers are going online for their news, seeing it as a convenient alternative to having the paper delivered to the doorsteps.

Though Campbell is optimistic about online media, he also said he worries this development is fragmenting audiences. While newspapers, television and radio aim to reach the majority of the public, online content is often geared solely toward individual groups.

"We need to value the CBC and smaller, more idiosyncratic institutions," said Campbell. He said there are many alternatives, but they depend on public support.

Campbell's lecture will be held in the David Lam Auditorium on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Cavers oppose interchange

Langford Lake cave could be destroyed during blasting

Melanie Tromp

Cavers are protesting the imminent Spencer Road interchange, claiming the unique Langford Lake cave will be destroyed if construction moves forward.

The controversial interchange project will provide another point of access to Langford's Bear Mountain development, connecting up with the Trans-Canada Highway to alleviate traffic congestion due to a growing population. The Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group publicly condemned the project at a press conference Jan. 15. The group said blasting needed to construct the interchange could destroy the cave, which is over 40 metres long.

"The chances of the cave surviving nearby blasting are fairly remote," said Adrian Duncan, president of the Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group and director of the B.C. Speleological Federation. "They're going to be blasting within nine metres of the closest point of the cave to a depth of two to seven metres, meaning the cave will be sitting at the top of a possible 22-foot cliff."

Although the cavers said the explosives may cause the cave's roof to collapse, Duncan said the speleological federation is more concerned about damage to the cave's inimitable karst ecosystem. The Langford Lake cave is comprised of limestone, well-drained soil and a rare mix of trees and shrubbery, said Duncan.

"Here we are, the custodians of this amazing ecosystem," he said. "It takes literally thousands and thousands of years [for nature] to create a limestone landscape and when it's gone, you can't replace it — you only get one chance to look after it."

Duncan said the possibility of collateral damage to the karst due to ground shock will be "almost inevitable" and that "we should be very hesitant to destroy anything we can't recreate."

> "We should be very hesitant to destroy anything we can't recreate."
>
> *– Adrian Duncan*

But Langford's current clerk-administrator and former city planner Rob Buchan said steps are being taken to protect the cave and thus irreparable damage is unlikely.

"As an example, there is a lot of bedrock in Greater Victoria and blasting occurs right beside the foundations of houses," said Buchan. "It's done in such a way that shocks are contained." Buchan also noted the cave has managed to withstand earthquakes over the years.

The cave exploration group is advocating for a relocation of the interchange, which was rerouted in mid-2007 from a path running overtop of the cave to a new path running adjacent to the eastern side of the cave.

According to Buchan, the City of Langford only planned for the interchange to run over the cave in the original blueprint because planners didn't know of if its existence. Once the speleological federation brought this geological site to their attention, Langford city council spent between $300,000 and $400,000 to reroute the service road and develop a management strategy to protect the cave.

The cave exploration group recommended that project planners engage in a complete geotechnical assessment of the cave last year. Langford hired Golder Associates to do the job. However, due to WorkSafe B.C. regulations, the consultant did not go beyond the entrance of the cave.

Langford city engineer John Manson told the Times Colonist on Jan. 15 that this was a moot issue because measures were already being taken to protect the cave, but Duncan disagreed.

"We recommended that the city retain a professional who is familiar with karst ecosystems and we even provided the city with a list of names," said Duncan, noting that karst is not a specialty of Golder Associates. "I can't comment on why the consultant didn't enter the cave, but if you can't see an area, you can't assess it, and so if Golder had a problem with the situation then [Langford] should have gotten someone else."

Manson noted that he had personally toured the cave from end to end, but Duncan said this doesn't constitute as a professional assessment as Manson does not specialize in karst.

"Our group has no beef with the City [of Langford]," said Duncan. "Our concern is purely centred on the project itself and its location, and the consequences it will have on that beautiful little karst ecosystem in the heart of Langford."

According to Duncan, over half of Greater Victoria's original 20 caves have already been destroyed and the loss of Langford Lake cave will bring the region's number to eight.

Petition asks for bike lanes

Sam VanSchie

Oak Bay council has received a petition signed by over 3,000 people who want bicycle lanes added to the northern portion of Henderson Road.

The petition was circulated by Safer Cycling Oak Bay after council voted last summer four to three against a proposed $20,000 paint job for the 1.1 kilometre stretch of road. The road connects the main entrances of the UVic and Camosun College campuses and is used by more than 1,000 cyclists and 8,000 cars a day.

While the northern portion of Henderson Road is wide and flat with good visibility, motorists travelling on it struck two cyclists in separate incidents attended by police and ambulance in September. Current bylaws prevent roadside parking during peak hours. The posted speed limit is 40 km/h, though few motorists abide by it.

About 1,000 of Oak Bay's 18,000 residents signed the petition. Lanes will be considered in the 2008 municipal budget, this time with $15,000 three-car parking bays tacked on to please residents who don't want to lose their street-parking, an outcome of the earlier proposal.

The petition is still in circulation and may be signed at www3.telus.net/safercyclingoakbay.

www.martlet.ca

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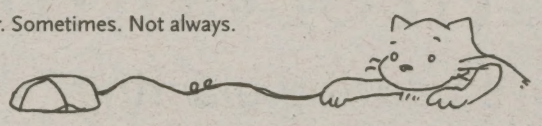

Kids reduce parents' health

UVic researchers expect to find 50 per cent decline in physical activity

John McNeil

Does having kids make you unhealthy? A new study led by UVic's Dr. Ryan Rhodes hopes to answer that.

UVic's Behavioural Medicine Laboratory is studying how nutrition, physical activity and quality of life change in couples after the birth of their first child. The motivation for the study, according to Rhodes, is the fact that obesity is spiralling out of control.

With mortality and morbidity rates increasing dramatically, the study aims to examine whether a partner influences the other's physical activity level and whether partner health declines as a result of having children.

"The constraints parenting puts on leisure time is almost staggering," said Rhodes. "What we expect to see is a 50 per cent decline in personal physical activity for parenting couples compared to their previous lifestyle."

Participants will be examined using the most up-to-date measurement tools, including professional fitness testing, accelerometers and nutritional analysis.

"This study is a multi-step process," said project co-ordinator Kai Riecken. "We are examining people's physical activity, eating habits, and overall quality of life."

The study began about a year ago, but the research team is still recruiting to reach their target goal of 150 couples. The study is structured to compare 75 couples with a child to 75 couples without children to examine weight gain due to lifestyle and diet changes.

When asked to predict the results of the study, Riecken expects parents to have lower scores on the nutrition and physical activity variables. While trying to balance a career along with parenting, couples become constrained for time and simply don't have the ability to get to the gym or to cook, so they consume frozen or fast food.

"Everybody says time is an issue. Time creates barriers," said Riecken.

> "The constraints parenting puts on leisure time is almost staggering."
>
> *– Dr. Ryan Rhodes, UVic Behavioural Medicine Labratory*

Some of the motivation for the study comes from Rhodes' personal experience in raising young children and the difficulty trying to regulate his health. He couldn't find much research on the topic, so he decided to conduct his own.

Results of the study will solely depend on the activities of each individual couple.

"Of course not everyone is going to change," said Rhodes. "Some will bounce back and others will keep on trucking. What we hypothesize is a change in values. People are putting their kids first."

The study group is currently looking for couples aged 20 to 45 that do not have children and are not expecting, or are currently expecting their first child.

Interested couples may contact Riecken at kaib@uvic.ca or 472-5488.

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Time for smoke alarms to ring: Unsick UVic

Campus group to draw attention to second-hand smoke

Feryal Ferdowsi

Unsick UVic Health Promotion Society will launch a "Drop Dead" event Jan. 25 at the Petch Fountain in support of National Non-Smoking Week.

"The bodies of students pretending to be dead will litter the cement outside the library to represent the 6,000 British Columbians who die as a result of smoking every year," said Unsick UVic's president Robert Obara.

He said Unsick UVic is looking to raise awareness around the provincial government's ban on smoking in public places, the negative effects of smoking and second-hand smoke, and financial ties between B.C. post-secondary institutions and the tobacco industry.

Obara called the $20,000 per year profits that tobacco companies were making through sales in the Student Union Building "unethical." Unsick UVic approached the UVic Students' Society, which took initiatives to get cigarette sales banned on campus in September.

When Obara's grandmother, a 40-year smoker, diet of metastasized lung cancer, he decided to create an organization that dealt with smoking among students.

Since its start in 2006, Unsick UVic has had the support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, B.C. Lung Association, and the Canadian Cancer Society. But Unsick UVic isn't out to get smokers, their president said.

"We are not an anti-smoker organization at all," said Obara. "We simply promote the rights of other people to clean air."

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, second-hand smoking is the leading cause of lung disease in non-smokers.

Obara praised recent changes on campus to promote clean air, such as the university smoking task force's 10-metre ban on smoking near a doorway and around the Petch Fountain.

Although Obara said there is no explicit evidence of the financial ties between post-secondary institutions and the tobacco industry, he claimed there are various advertisements, research grants and donations indirectly funded by the tobacco industry through submitting funds through other companies. He added that "although this process is difficult to track down, a broad policy review would help to clarify the influence of tobacco companies on campus."

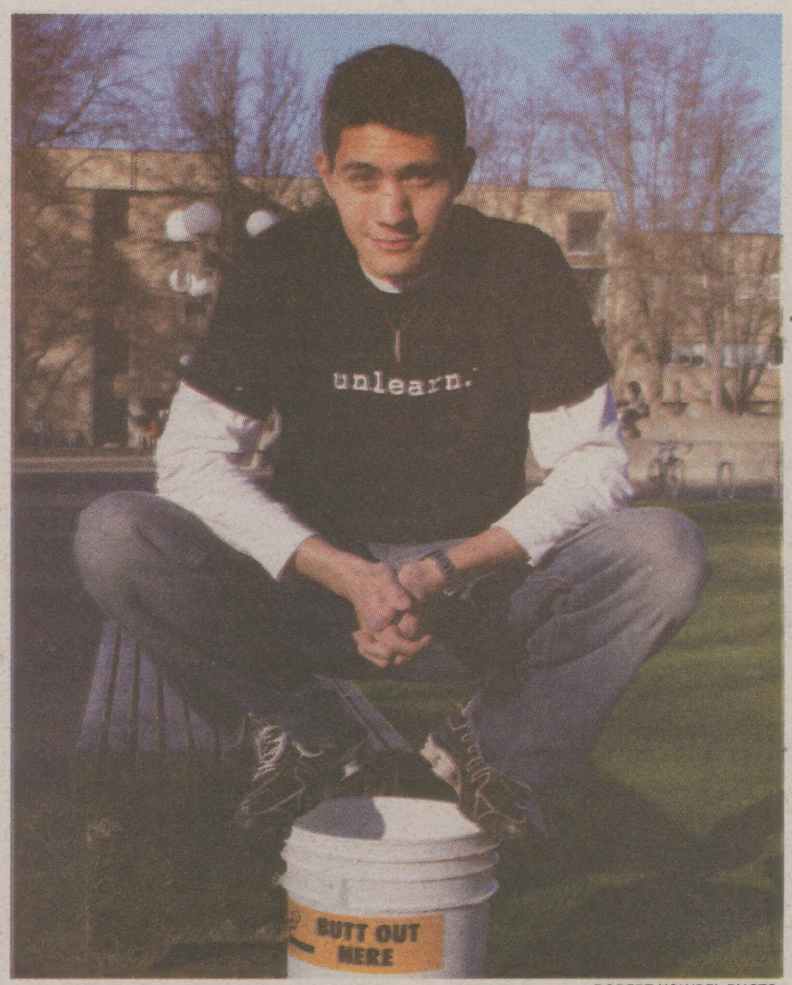
Scott Macdonald, assistant director of the Centre for Addictions Research of B.C., said, "The number of smokers have been declining since the '70s, from 50 per cent of Canada's population to 25 per cent."

Macdonald said harm to a person can also harm the society as a whole, with unhealthy people costing society more.

> "We are not an anti-smoker organization at all."
>
> *– Robert Obara, Unsick UVic president*

The under-20 age group is most at risk for becoming smokers, he noted, adding that a person who has not smoked by age 25 is unlikely to take up smoking.

Macdonald said that in the last decade, statistics show females are an increasingly large proportion of those who become new smokers.



ROBERT KOWBEL PHOTO

Unsick UVic president Robert Obara will head up the Drop Dead event.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Quebec health care threatened

Veronica Islas
THE CONCORDIAN

MONTREAL (CUP) — Montreal doctor Jacques Chaoulli is billing himself as the "middleman" between patients and doctors with his medical brokering system, the first of its kind in Quebec.

The system will allow patients speedier access to doctor consultations and therapeutic, surgical and diagnostic procedures, both in the public and private sectors. The Chaoulli Group will allow patients to access a physician within a week — without having to go on a waiting list — at a cost of $150 a year, plus $20 per consultation.

Right now, it is illegal for physicians working in the public system to directly charge patients for medical services that are already provided under medicare. But Chaoulli contends that, by acting as a middleman, his group would still be acting according to the law.

"What the Canada Health Act says is that when the service is provided on behalf of a third party, then it is not covered under the public regime," he said. "So a public doctor might provide the care under a private regime."

In this case, the third organization would be Chaoulli's company.

This type of practice is already happening, according to Chaoulli, who cited the Quebec Automobile Insurance Corp., which sometimes covers the medical costs of patients injured in car accidents.

Maria Peluso, a public policy professor at Concordia University, said she worries this will give priority health care access to those who can afford it, at the expense of those who can't.

"This goes against the public interest by creating divisions in society. It is an erosion of the health care system," she said. "It is morally reprehensible to profit on health care."

She said Chaoulli's case will probably end up in court.

"We do need a decision on this because this will direct government policy because such a decision is in the public interest."

It is not the first time Chaoulli has challenged the Quebec health care system. In 2005, after trying and failing to set up a private hospital, he called on the Supreme Court to lift Quebec's ban on private medical insurance.

Chaoulli won when the Supreme Court ruled that the Quebec government cannot prevent people from paying for private insurance for certain health care procedures covered under medicare.

This practice could create an unjust parallel health system said Denise Boucher, vice-president of the Confederation of National Unions, which represents almost all Quebec unions.

She said it won't fix the real problem that the health system is facing: access.

"We need to work on our health system and regroup activities where there are long waiting lists in clinics and specialized public centres, but we have to keep the system public and with universal access, instead of implanting a group like Chaoulli's," she said.

"This group will probably entice doctors in the public system to work in the private one."

But Chaoulli said he will ensure doctors don't abandon the public system to work in his organization.

"I have a commitment from the public doctors," he said. "Only those who are not overbooked can participate with the Chaoulli group. The group would monitor the doctors to ensure the public system is not damaged."

Chaoulli has yet to explain how he will do this.

Boucher said it is impossible to tell how much a group like Chaoulli's rates will rise in the long term.

"In the spring [Chaoulli] said he would charge $40 per year. Now he wants $150," she said.

"People will pay a lot, while creating a parallel system that will make health care even more inaccessible. This is a very bad choice."

Walkers hit Ring Road for Alzheimer's

Steve Carey

On Sunday, Jan. 27, UVic's Ring Road will play host to the sixth annual Walk for Memories.

The goal of the event is to raise funds for the Alzheimer Society of B.C., a volunteer-based non-profit that provides support, education and awareness programs to those affected by Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Stefan Carson, 70, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease last February. In August, Carson developed vascular dementia. Carson described Alheimer's as "taking a chunk of your memory."

"Information is the first and most critical part of understanding this disease," said Carson, adding that the Alzheimer Society provides support to get through the fear of diagnosis and the fear of being alone.

Carson attends the support groups offered at the Victoria Alzheimer Resource Centre for people with early stage Alzheimer's disease.

"It gives you a place where you can talk with people who also suffer," said Carson. "There's a place for tears, a place for laughter, and there's support for family."

The Walk for Memories is five kilometres — twice around Ring Road — and is a non-competitive event for people of all ages. Last year more than 300 people attended.

Jani Cardinal, the support and education co-ordinator of the Victoria Alzheimer Resource Centre, said that the meetings and services provided through the Alzheimer Society reduce the sense of isolation that family members and those diagnosed with the disease have.

The Alzheimer Society also offers a "safely home" service, to help find people with Alzheimer disease who may be lost, and to assist in their safe return home.

Although the Alzheimer Resource Centre has only two full-time employees, it is able to deliver a full range of education and support services thanks to dedicated volunteers. This year's Walk for Memories is dedicated to the caregivers of those with Alzheimer's.

Despite the challenges associated with Alzheimer's disease, Carson remains upbeat about life.

"There is life after diagnosis. There's support and there's love and there's just plain life," said Carson.

Walk for Memories

Sunday, Jan. 27
9 a.m. - Registration at Centennial Stadium
10 a.m. - Walk begins, twice around Ring Road
Noon - Wrap-up
Entertainment by District of Soul and refreshments from Thrifty Foods and Starbucks.
Sign up or pledge online at www.alzheimerbc.org.

U.V.S.S. and G.S.S. MEMBERS

GET INVOLVED IN GOVERNING UVIC!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Elections to the Senate

SIXTEEN STUDENTS (including at least one student from each Faculty – 1 year term)

Elections to the Board of Governors

TWO STUDENTS (1 year term)

For more information about Senate and the Board of Governors please visit the University Secretary's web site at:
http://web.uvic.ca/univsec/

Nominations Close Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Nomination papers must be signed by no fewer than three students eligible to vote, other than the candidate, and by the candidate. Pick up your nomination form at any of these locations:

- Business & Economics Building, Room 410
- Student Union Building, Room 103
- Graduates Students' Centre, outside Room 102

A nomination paper is not valid unless it is received in Room 410, Business & Economics Building, University of Victoria, not later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

Voting for students to the Senate and Board of Governors will be processed via the WebVote system – no paper ballots will be used.

Julia Eastman
University Secretary

Corporate giants buy out green companies

Charlotte Barrow

Eco-friendly beauty products are a rapidly growing, multi-million dollar industry. But many prominent natural product lines have recently been bought out by larger, less ecologically-minded companies, and consumers are questioning whether the values behind the products will be compromised.

Clorox bought Burt's Bees, a natural beauty line from the northeastern United States, for nearly US$925 million last fall.

"The greening of America is a megatrend. All you have to do is listen to major retailers talk about sustainability, and you see the confluence of consumer trends and retailer trends," Burt's Bees CEO John Replogle told BusinessWeek.

Clorox makes bleach, often considered one of the most ecologically harmful chemical products on the market. But the company hopes the merger will help it develop a greener reputation. Clorox claims its new cleaning line, Green Works, consists of 99 per cent natural ingredients.

"Don't judge Clorox as much by where they've been as much as where they intend to go," Replogle told the New York Times.

Similar recent buyouts have included Colgate-Palmolive's acquisition of Tom's of Maine. The Body Shop, perhaps the best-known ethical beauty company, was bought by L'Oreal, a cosmetics company criticized for testing on animals.

Green is big business. Burt's Bees' annual revenue rose sevenfold from 2000 to 2007. Clorox's share prices have risen from about $38 per share ten years ago to more than $60 today, thanks to a series of buyouts.

"North Americans are finally convinced of the growing urgency of addressing global climate change," wrote Kim Shiffman, senior editor at Canadian entrepreneurial magazine Profit. "In the past few years, organizations in Canada and around the world have been extolling the benefits of going green."

But is it all talk?

Natural ingredients, minimal packaging, and sustainable harvesting practices are all factors considered in judging a company's greenness. Ethical considerations such as cruelty to animals, fair trade, and workers' rights are also often considered. Many ethical consumers question the credibility of Clorox and other large corporations' commitment to ecological mandates, despite reassurances from high-up personnel.

According to the New York Times, "As companies rush to put out more and more 'natural' or 'green' products, consumers and advocacy groups are increasingly questioning the meaning of this label."

Burt's Bees has been working with the Natural Products Association to create a set of standardized requirements for qualifying as "natural." Starting in April, products deemed to be 95 per cent natural will receive a label from the association.

"We just don't want to see the term misused any longer," Daniel Fabricant, Burt's Bees vice president for scientific and regulatory affairs, told the New York Times.

Many companies may be adopting a green image to increase sales, but it's up to consumers to investigate which values are upheld. The consumer's desire for Earth- and body-friendly products is what spurred the shift. We'll just have to keep looking beyond the green veneer.

Fish water flushes campus toilets

Initiative reduces water use by 70 per cent

Andrew Bishop

If you're concerned with all the development on campus, be content that the ecological footprint of the new buildings is being reduced by an innovative plumbing system.

Many of UVic's newer buildings use a self-contained waste water system that converts and recycles water from a freshwater fish tank in UVic's Outdoor Aquatic Facility, treating it with filters and pumps and finally recirculating it into toilets and urinals on campus.

The system was dreamt up under UVic's Waste Water Initiative, a project spearheaded by Facilities Management and the Office of Planning and Sustainability. The initiative has focussed on treating and recycling water on campus since the construction of UVic's Medical Sciences Building in 2004.

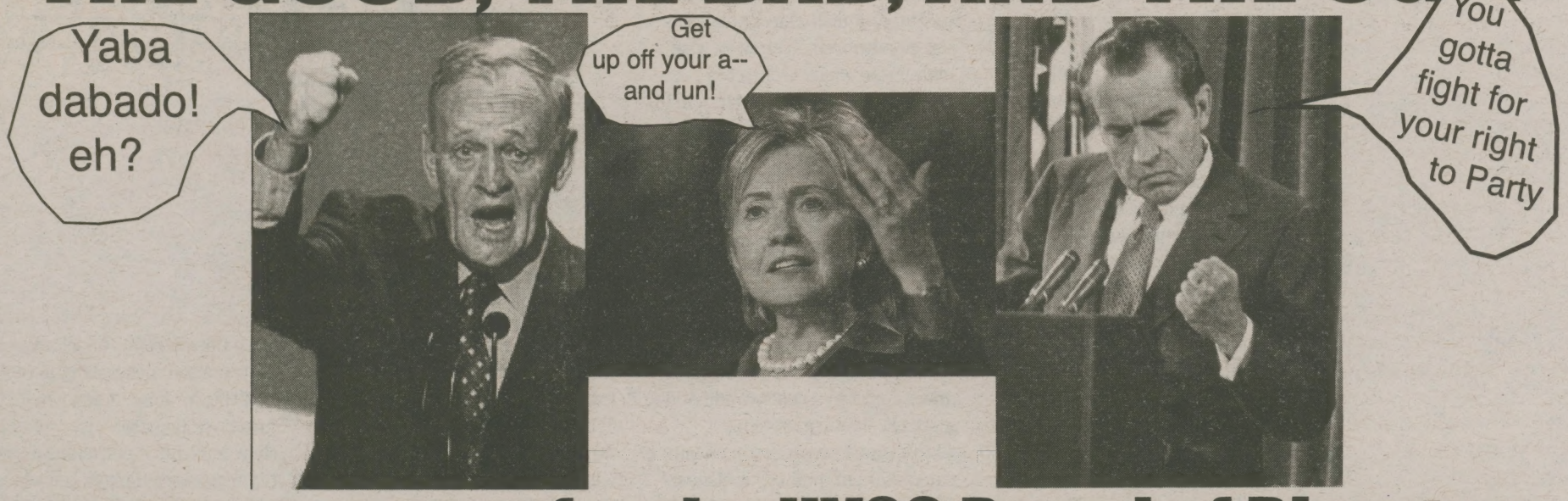
Facilities Management and consulting firm Hirschfield Willams and Timmins Ltd. developed the innovative way to reduce the demand on local sanitary sewer lines during construction phases for the building, which consequently earned a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold medal. The water recycling project has resulted in a 70 per cent reduction of total water use in the building and the elimination of fresh water from toilets and urinals.

The Engineering and Computer Science building has since been constructed with a similar recycled-water plumbing concept. It also has an added feature: by capturing the energy through a water-to-water heat pump, the building's heating requirements are reduced by about 350,000 kilowatt hours per year.

UVic sustainability co-ordinator Sarah Webb called the Water Waste Initiative "a perfect example of innovation and sustainability." She said the university will connect the system to the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building, the Support Services Building and the First People's House, all under construction.

Webb's office, in conjunction with Facilities Management, is currently looking at other applications for the recycled water, such as the Petch Fountain, the Mearns Centre for Learning library extension, and a drip irrigation system for the roof of the Social Sciences and Mathematics Building.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY



want you to run for the UVSS Board of Directors

Elections for the 2008-2009 UVSS Board of Directors are coming up and all UVic undergraduate students are eligible to run for a position.

Nominations open on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th** and close at 4:00pm on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11th.**

During the above dates, nomination forms can be picked up and completed forms can be submitted to the Elections Office in SUB B106.

Campaigning begins on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th** and goes until the close of polls on **FRIDAY, MARCH 7th.** Polling will take place on **MARCH 5th, 6th, AND 7th.**

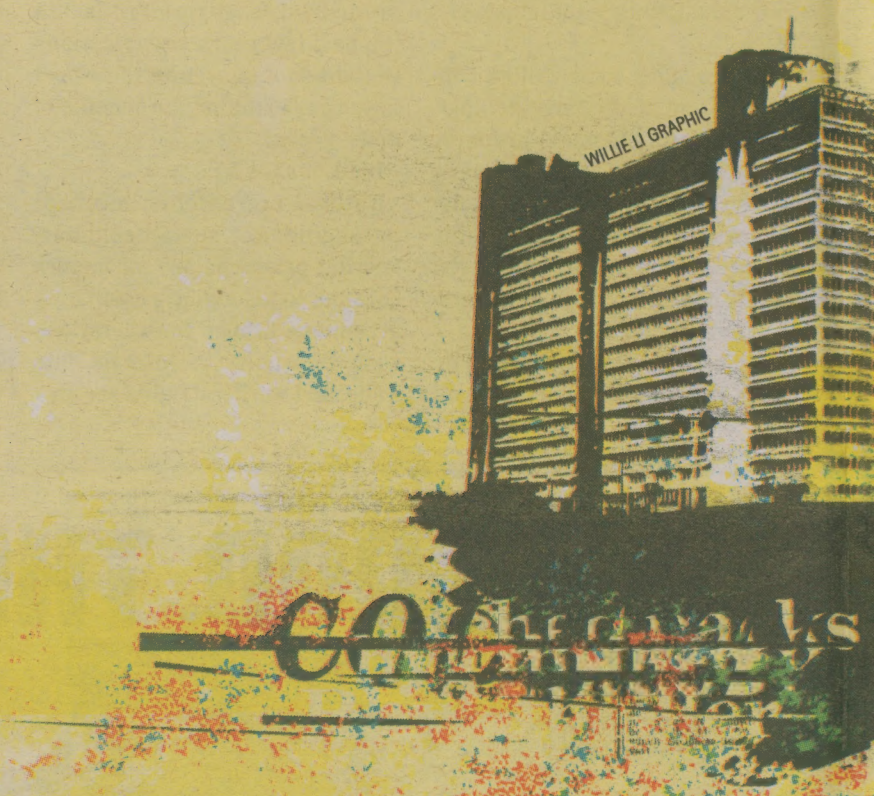
For more information go to **www.uvss.uvic.ca.**

CARBON OFFSETS

OFFSETTING RESPONSIBILITY OR RESPONSIBLY OFFSETTING?

BY REYNA JENKYNS

Are you planning on flying somewhere for a reading break vacation? If so, you may be interested in carbon offsets.



Even with growing awareness about how air travel contributes to climate change, most people aren't prepared to give up flying. Some travellers choose to offset their emissions, but knowing which offset sellers are credible can be a daunting task.

Flights within Canada accounted for 8.7 million out of 747 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2005, an increase of 20 per cent since 2003. A round trip flight between Victoria and Toronto can generate up to two tonnes of emissions per passenger — almost 10 per cent of the 21.9 tonnes the average Canadian is responsible for each year.

What quantity of emissions are UVic students responsible for? Nobody knows, but keep in mind that 18.7 per cent of UVic students come from outside the province.

For UVic's faculty and staff, however, there is a paper trail. Integrated Energy Systems, an interdepartmental group on campus, recently audited UVic's emissions, including transportation emissions. Because each department keeps different kinds of records, and not all travel details are tracked — type of aircraft, flight paths and the number of empty seats — the calculations aren't exact. But Jeff Wishart, who is responsible for calculating the transportation emissions, said this is a first step and the audit will highlight where data is lacking and outline better collection procedures. The findings were presented to a committee in early December but aren't yet publicly available.

"We require emission reduction targets of 80 to 90 percent by 2050, compared to 1990 levels," said Kirsten Zickfield, a post-doctoral fellow in UVic's School of Earth and Ocean Sciences Climate Modelling Group. This figure comes from the results of various emissions scenarios input into the UVic Earth system climate model, recently published in a paper that she co-authored. Scenarios with higher emissions yield a temperature rise beyond the 2 C threshold, an upper bound on manageable climate warming.

What are offsets?

The principle behind offsets is to neutralize the impact of emissions by funding projects that reduce emissions elsewhere. Typical offset projects involve renewable energy, energy conservation and methane-capture systems.

Most offset providers have online calculators to quantify emissions and associated offset cost. A test of eight calculators for a round-trip direct flight Victoria to Toronto (economy class) shows a range of emissions from 0.7 to 2 tonnes per person, with offset costs ranging from $11.20 to $50.32.

Many providers use the results of a report by Oxford University titled Aviation Emissions and Offsets in their calculations. These calculations are based on four key factors: the aircraft's fuel consumption rate, the seats occupied and freight on-board, the overall impact of greenhouse gas emissions in the stratosphere, and the distance flown.

Offset sellers use numerous criteria to evaluate the credibility and effectiveness of projects. One key measure is additionality, which examines whether a project would have existed without offset funds. This is done with a baseline determination — an evaluation of the emissions that would occur without any intervention. The baseline determination can then be compared to emissions to make sure the money from offsets is creating improvements.

A benefit quantification demonstrates these proposed reductions and associated uncertainties. Permanence reflects the long-term value of the offsets. Other factors include ownership, monitoring and verification plans and project registration (to provide a paper trail).

One of the most familiar approaches, tree-planting, is criticized for its numerous flaws, a major one being that its emission reductions are not permanent. Trees release stored carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere at the end of their lifespan, which is often cut short by logging, forest fires and infestation. And trees take decades to achieve their emission-capturing potential — if they're not cut down before they're fully grown. It's also not clear how much emissions a tree reduces, since the number of trees required to neutralize emissions depends on complex factors such as tree type and local climate. And unlike renewable energy or energy efficiency initiatives, trees don't reduce fossil fuel use.

Good, bad and ugly

To make it easier for consumers, an international criterion called the Gold Standard was developed. For a project to be granted a Gold Standard, it must reduce fossil fuel use, have low environmental risk, meet "additionality" criteria, and have been independently verified by a third party. The Consumer Guide to Carbon Offsets (available online) contains valuable tips on factors to consider when purchasing offsets, including rankings of

organizations and explanations of existing standards. Planetair is Canada's first and only supplier of Gold Standard projects.

Air Canada and WestJet have each partnered with offset providers, but the arrangements are not well advertised. WestJet's system requires customers to books flights through the non-profit Offsetters Climate Neutral Society, without any visible advertisement on the WestJet website. Air Canada simply includes a sentence to visit Zerofootprint in the confirmation e-mail from an online purchase. Zerofootprint projects target renewable energy, reforestation and forest conservation.

Offsetters' projects, such as ground source heat pump installations, emphasize energy efficiency and occur both in Canada and abroad. As a demonstration of their environmental commitment, its Vancouver-based founders have yet to receive a salary.

While Canadians now have the additional option of booking flights for WestJet or Air Canada through FlyGreen.ca, this isn't the same as a complete offset. FlyGreen.ca, launched by Hume Travel in December, gives a contribution to Offsetters projects for each booking without any added user fees. But these contributions only cover a fraction of the carbon emissions — a measly $2 corresponding to 100 kilograms of carbon dioxide is administered per round trip WestJet booking, and only half that for an Air Canada booking. This represents around 10 per cent of a passenger's emissions on the Victoria-Toronto route.

UVic alumnus Bryce Conacher is the founder and CEO of Cleanairpass. He was motivated to enter the offset business after trying to protect Grizzly bears and ancient trees made him realize current human activity is not sustainable.

Conacher said offset companies do good work — otherwise, they'd go out of business.

"This market is self-regulated right now, so looking after the integrity of your brand's carbon portfolio is critical to survival," he said.

Cleanairpass uses an in-house carbon filter and chooses projects that meet the ISO 14064-2 standard. As they become available, Cronacher plans to source projects that meet the Gold Standard and the new Voluntary Carbon Standard.

Avoiding the problem

Critics of offsets say they avoid what really needs to be done — taking action to reduce emissions in the first place.

UVic is currently brainstorming how to better address its air travel emissions. Sarah Webb, UVic sustainability co-ordinator, disclosed plans to create an internal offset program, which would collect offset fees associated with staff and faculty travel for campus emissions reduction projects. This localized approach would give tangible ways for students to see the results, she said, adding that emissions can be reduced by travelling less and videoconferencing more.

Another group on campus, Common Energy, aims to make the UVic campus carbon neutral. According to members Jamie Biggar, Brandi Sistili and Heather English, its membership is still debating the issue of carbon offsets.

Some members worry that offsets are used improperly and consumers are alleviating their guilt by buying yet another product, or that consumers are condoning business-as-usual by passing on the burden, when emissions should be reduced directly.

"Actually reducing emissions through lifestyle changes and volunteering time is a much better solution than buying offsets," said Biggar.

Heather English said offsets can have negative side effects, such as planting non-native trees. She added that timing is important — we are emitting now, yet the projects we support may not offset until years from now.

But Sistili said offsets may encourage the "spirit of counteracting emissions." Despite the conflicting arguments, Common Energy members have reached a consensus on certain items: offsets are not a licence to pollute and buyers should consider other solutions.

Some solutions are vacationing closer to home, taking trains or buses, or choosing direct flights. Packing lightly can also reduce weight and save fuel.

But even Cleanairpass CEO Conacher is calling for emissions reductions first, and offsets second.

"First and foremost, Cleanairpass wants to educate and encourage conservation and investment in energy efficient technologies," he said. "We actually want people to buy less with Cleanairpass over time. We want to grow a large subscriber base and help those customers reduce their greenhouse gas footprint year over year."

In short, offsets are only one aspect of traveling and living sustainably. As you make your next travel plans, take a moment to consider Cronacher's final advice: "Reduce, reuse, recycle — then offset."

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Saanich bylaw hurts students

Every so often, newspapers like to report on silly laws. Since the Martlet hasn't indulged in a while, here is a brief list:

• People in Ottawa aren't allowed to use a baseball diamond between Oct. 16 and April 30. Perhaps it's too cold and dangerous to hit a ball around in March.

• In Golden, B.C., it's illegal for a dog to bark for more than three minutes within a 15-minute period. Try explaining that one to Sparky.

• In Hawáii, it's against the law to put coins in your ears. Say what?

• And in Rhode Island, you're not allowed to ride your horse on a public highway for the purposes of racing or testing its speed. But if you're out for a nice pony ride, it's OK to gallop down the highway alongside semis and SUVs.

But there's another law we should add to the list: in Saanich, it's illegal to have more than four unrelated people living in a dwelling with one kitchen.

Section 5.20 of the bylaw 8200 states that, "Notwithstanding any other provisions of the bylaw, where a dwelling unit is occupied by two or more persons unrelated by blood or marriage, the total number of persons unrelated by blood or marriage occupying the dwelling, including the boarders shall not exceed four."

This bylaw is no laughing matter. Thirteen students in a 4,000 square foot house on Haultain Street face eviction because of the bylaw, even though the nine-bedroom dwelling can accommodate everyone. The renters tried to argue their case with the Saanich district council, but their efforts have been fruitless. Saanich mayor Frank Leonard will not even meet with the students.

It's time for Saanich to axe this outdated bylaw.

According to the British Columbia Real Estate Association, the average Greater Victoria housing list price hit a record high of $439,121. The rental vacancy rate is around one per cent in the region. UVic students are lucky to find a place for less than $400.

Like any product, housing prices are based on supply and demand. When the demand exceeds the supply, prices rise. Victoria is a beautiful place to live, with a strong economy and a good university. It's no wonder the demand for housing here is so high.

But increasing the supply of housing could drive prices down. And with construction companies overbooked and Langford struggling with sprawl, it makes sense to make the most of what we already have. That's where the Saanich bylaw comes in.

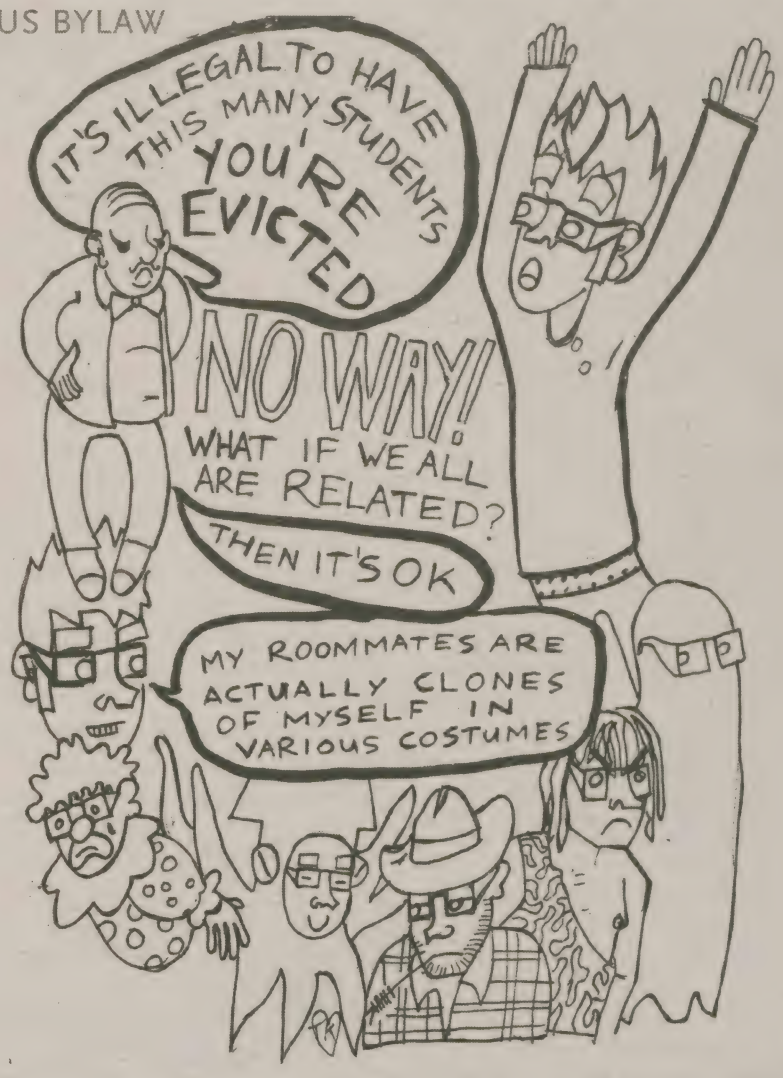
If all housing in Saanich, the most populous municipality in the Greater Victoria region, is limited to four people per unit, there is lots of room going unused. Eliminating the bylaw would create hundreds, if not thousands, of new housing vacancies overnight, making housing more affordable for everyone.

Yes, students have been known to party. And yes, there can be density issues with too many cars parked roadside. But there are ways to deal with that. There are noise suppression and nuisance bylaws to deal with rowdy parties, and bylaws could be created to limit the number of cars any given household can park on the street.

There is room for discussion on how to solve this unfortunate situation. But Saanich owes students something better than an arcane, nonsensical bylaw.

Editorial topics and stances are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 2:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

RIDICULOUS BYLAW


IT'S ILLEGAL TO HAVE THIS MANY STUDENTS
YOU'RE EVICTED
NO WAY!
WHAT IF WE ALL ARE RELATED?
THEN IT'S OK
MY ROOMMATES ARE ACTUALLY CLONES OF MYSELF IN VARIOUS COSTUMES

TK LONGMIRE GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Grow a thicker skin

Is an apology really necessary ('Newfie' party draws criticism, Jan. 10)? I have a few "Newfie" friends who are fine with the term. Sure, Newfie was used as a derogatory term eons ago and it may have hurt people deeply. So? I was subject to the term "loser," yet I hear it nowadays and am not offended.

Before "Newfies" get upset about the word, maybe they should think about how many times they have laughed at racial jokes, or said "loser." If they say never, they are lying.

- Meaghan Devauld, UVic student

Beware of immortality

Grow up. Then die. These are two processes most people undergo. But Derek Madson seems to want to avoid both (Why doctors should play God, Jan. 17). His technique of skim-reading religious texts to find "evidence" against peoples' right to choose allegiance to tradition insults the intelligence of both believers and atheists.

Sure, religious fanaticism can lead to grave consequences, but scientific fanaticism is no more than a Pyrrhic Prometheanism. Should we save lives via research, treatment, and prevention? Usually. But a world of in-the-flesh immortality isn't one I'd like to live in. New ideas require new people to conceive of them, and thus progress is only possible via procreation and death. Madson believes in progress; he just doesn't have the courage to admit that his central atheist ideal is trying to kill him.

- Jordon Gowans, UVic student

Science a faith too

We should avoid the dangerous non-thinking of religious institutions. However, we should further avoid the strata of lies we've swallowed under the dressing of Science (Why doctors should play God, Jan. 17). Derek Madson's duplicitous article offends me. Atheism, or whatever banner one flies, is also a system built on faith — faith in ideal Science – faith, for example, in our hegemonic drug response to unhappiness and a failing body.

There is no question that modern doctors excel in emergencies. For preventative health they fail, peddling drugs for pharma-companies and a roster of bought scientists.

Religion, as well as science, has its ideal. The "human factor," as Graham Greene called it, corrupts with money, ego, and grant proposal politics.

Madson incorrectly suggests there is a united front called science. No scientist would agree with Madson. Science has as many fractures as religion in its palpable form. We should no more believe a scientist than a priest without wider investigation.

I tire of deceptive language. Madson is at best a member of another unthinking mob, and at worst another flavour of bigot for the 21st century.

- Garth Martens, UVic alumnus

Website doesn't serve students

I was disappointed to see the layout of the proposed new UVic website. While nicely arranged and visually appealing, it is too bad the designers chose to shift the focus from serving UVic students to serving those looking to apply. I understand the need for a website to appeal to prospective students, but most of the functionality of our old website seems to have disappeared. Even the Quicklinks bar and direct link to Webmail have fallen out of favour to make room for all the student stories, links for students' parents, and buttons to apply for admission.

It even launches with the "prospective students" tab selected, when, I would guess, that over 80 per cent of regular users are already enrolled. The web design team obviously did a very good job with the design, but I hope they take the time to rethink their content and whom the website serves most. To give the development team your own feedback (good or bad), write to them at webcoor@uvic.ca.

- Graeme Bock, UVic student

Gas tax is beneficial

Last week's editorial (Increasing the gas tax a mistake, Jan. 17) criticizing the UVSS campaign for a gas tax increase completely misses the point. Increasing the BC Transit Tax by two cents a litre, far from being misguided, is an approach favoured by organizations entrusted with providing an excellent public transit system.

Currently, we pay 2.5 cents a litre in tax at local pumps, compared with 14 cents a litre in Vancouver. A two-cent increase is an amount that drivers in Victoria can easily bear. Moreover, a well-funded, high-quality public transit service would give drivers an incentive to get out of their cars.

Since the inception of the We Ride campaign, the UVSS, along with three other local student unions, have intensively researched transit in B.C. and have consulted with a broad spectrum of individuals and groups who have a stake in the delivery of public transit.

The demand for a two-cent gas tax increase is reflective of a broad and growing consensus on how to provide long-term and sustainable

Continued on facing page

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Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
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Hooray for hangovers

Will Johnson

I kind of like being hungover.

Sure, I get that panicked reaction in my stomach, the bleary eyes and the pounding headache. Often I can't move far beyond my bed, except maybe to dash for the bathroom to puke up last night's Second Slice pizza. But I also sort of enjoy that sensation, that feeling like my body is at work.

This semester, I was stupid enough to accept a shift teaching swimming lessons on Saturday mornings. For the last couple months I've been dragging myself into the pool at 9 a.m., still half-asleep and burping up alcohol, so that I can sing "Fishy in the Middle" or "Wheels on the Bus" with an excited gaggle of four-year-olds.

I guess I appreciate how hard my body is working on my behalf. We spend so little time aware of this gangly mess of throbbing meat we drag around with us day to day. There are so many things my body does entirely without my input, such as produce snot, or make me sneeze, or digest my food.

But when I'm hungover, I know exactly what my body is up to.

I feel every breath, every heartbeat. Sometimes it seems like I can feel my brain mushing around inside my skull, working hard to claw its way out of the milky fog I've left it in.

It seems to me like my heart beats a little bit faster, my blood pumps a little bit harder.

It's the same feeling some people get when going to the gym. I'm a swimmer, and the whole lifting-weights-and-biking-for-half-an-hour-but-never-getting-anywhere thing has always seemed a little bit pointless. But yesterday I tagged along with my roommate on his trip to the gym and discovered something new — the elliptical machine.

At first humiliating and disconcerting, my arms and legs did strange, acrobatic things they're not used to. But I eventually got control of myself. It's like a strange, jerking rain dance — except instead of prancing around a fire naked, I'm in an unusually sterile environment with televisions and a cute Lululemon girl working out beside me, listening to her Ipod and reading Cosmo.

On the walk home, my legs and arms were screaming in protest with me, but I felt alive in a way I hadn't for a while. I felt good.

It's nice to be aware of things. Even when I'm four hours into a TV date with my laptop, I occasionally have to pull myself away to forage in the kitchen or wander around outside until I reconnect with the world. With overwhelming classes, one important deadline after another, and a schedule book overflowing with reminders and to-do lists, it's nice every now and then to take a moment to realize I'm human.

Upping gas tax is a reasonable move

Matthew Greeno

We all agree that transit needs an upgrade. We have no late night bus service in Victoria and I can think of many occasions where a full bus has passed me by or where a bus has not come at all.

Because of the inconsistency of bus service, many opt for less environmentally friendly transport instead. In fact, in a recent survey, people at UVic cited the unreliability of buses as a major reason for not using public transit.

A gas tax would provide a measure of reliability. In fact, a tax that goes directly to transit is one of the only stable funding mechanisms for the service. Most funding for public transit comes from government grants, but B.C. Transit needs to fight with other public agencies for this money.

> How many farmers in Greater Victoria use enough fuel that a two cent per-litre tax would destroy their livelihood? I doubt there are any.

Funding through fares is also unreliable, and relying on them for funding only perpetuates the problem. Because public transit is unreliable, people do not use it consistently, and because people do not use the public transit consistently, the managers of the service are uncertain as to which routes and times are cost effective to run.

The anonymous Martlet editorial (Increasing the gas tax a mistake, Jan. 17) states that a gas tax would hurt students, farmers, and those who are experiencing poverty. However, more reliable bus service would increase the mobility of students and those who are experiencing poverty. It would also allow these two groups to save money by taking the bus as opposed to driving. This money could be spent on even more healthy (and hopefully locally produced) food.

How many farmers in Greater Victoria use enough fuel that a two cent per-litre tax would destroy their livelihood? I doubt there are any. In fact, I doubt that a similar tax would break my father's 2,000 acre farm in Alberta. The Martlet's logic makes no sense. Rejecting an increase in the price of fuel in Greater Victoria is more of an blind attack on taxes in general than a reasoned argument. Taxes should be questioned, but when a tax goes directly to improving a public service and preventing environmental degradation, it should be warmly welcomed.

LETTERS

Continued from facing page

funding for BC Transit. It would seem that just about everyone except the Martlet is on board with this forward-thinking initiative.

- Veronica Harrison, UVSS director-at-large

Gas tax critique needs fact check

Last week's editorial (Increasing the gas tax a mistake, Jan. 17) demonstrated a lack of coherent research by the Martlet staff.

The editorial claims that increasing the gas tax will increase food prices, citing a study by economist Lutz Kilian. However, the conclusions of this study are completely robbed of their context. The study claims that "on average, consumers are able to decrease the net price paid per grocery item by five to 11 per cent in response to a 100 per cent increase in gasoline prices." Translation: when gas doubles in price, people will buy lower-quality food. The study does not claim that a two-cent increase in the gas tax (what the UVSS is petitioning for) will cause people to buy lower-quality food items.

The transit petition being circulated is asking for a two-cent increase in the municipal gas tax, which will only affect Victoria and the surrounding municipalities. Again, this study is completely inappropriate for analyzing a two-cent increase in the municipal gas tax. Given that most of the food we consume is shipped in from thousands of miles away, a local increase in the gas tax will have no effect on food prices.

- Edward Pullman, UVSS director-at-large

Better ways to serve Aboriginals

Remember that $500,000 hardwood floor/wall upgrade to the Ministry of Education? All the native art on the walls of executives really makes people feel welcome.

Next time an aboriginal student has an issue or needs funding, they will be directed to the First People's House (New building brings hope for new mentality). This building will sit unused and empty like Vertigo in the SUB. Instead of spending $7 million to fund scholarships and actually foster equality, we have a building constructed for the 3.25 per cent of the school population that will not receive the equality they deserve.

- Tim Scolnick, UVic student

First People's House is welcome

I feel the need to clarify a couple of points regarding Nathan Lowther's article on the establishment of the First People's House (New building brings hope for new mentality, Jan. 17) where my words were taken out of context.

Contrary to Lowther's claim, the building of the First People's House is not a cause of anxiety for Aboriginal students; we've been waiting for this development for years and are looking forward to the groundbreaking ceremony as a momentous occasion.

I am also compelled to correct Lowther on the Native Student Union's (NSU) position concerning the removal of a number of non-native pines from the site.

The university went forward with the removal of the older trees over the holidays so as to ensure the safety of students, and the juvenile white oaks that are still within the footprint will be transplanted to another site on campus.

The plans also call for several native pines to be planted once construction is complete in the summer of 2009. The space will not remain treeless.

We are not "embarrassed" by this important step towards the establishment of the real cultural centre of our university.

- Ami Joseph Brosseau, NSU administrative co-ordinator

Ban not necessarily anti-gay

The debate over gay blood donation has been contentious, and it was suggested the policy of preventing gay men from donating is homophobic (Blood donor policy should target behavior, Jan 17). Being gay, I looked into this, but I think it is more complex.

In 2005, the Public Health Agency of Canada reported 55 per cent of the 58,000 people living with HIV were men who have sex with men (MSM).

Assuming a gay population of about 5 per cent, we find it is about 25 times more likely for person at random to have HIV if they are MSM (2 per cent vs 0.08 per cent). Despite the rapidly growing heterosexual HIV rate, it is the total that determines the risk.

I'm not saying that the policy is justified. It is more severe than in Australia (a one-year ban) or in Italy.

Drug users are also banned. A ban was lifted in 2005 for those from Britain and France since 1997, based on new Creutzfeldt-Jakob data.

Similarly, as the HIV population changes the policy will have to be re-evaluated, as was done last year.

However, being gay is a risk factor, and the risk/cost has to be considered, no matter how uncomfortable that is.

- Allan J. Stewart, UVic student

Hip-hop fans respect music, not club

June Halliday

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Nova Scotia-based rapper Classified (second from right) and his posse keep the crowd of 500 poeple dancing at Element Nightclub on Jan 15.

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, Element Nightclub showcased an abundance of hip-hop artists. Shad K, J-Bru, Mic Boyd, Chad Hatcher, DJ IV and Classified rhymed, rapped and scratched heart-thumping bass beats — once they made it to the stage.

Shad K finally opened the show after 11 p.m. with some soulful tracks. J-Bru followed with DJ IV providing back up beats.

"Wanna know why they call me J-Bru?" he asked before chugging a beer in one go.

The obligatory crotch grabbing, cocked caps and middle fingers in the air ensued. Mic Boyd (Classified's brother) joined the stage with the song "Help! I've Been Robbed." And Chad Hatcher slowed things down with an acoustic guitar set that showed his lyrical and instrumental talents.

It was past midnight when headliner Classified finally took the stage, which gave the capacity crowd, who hopefully didn't have work or school Wednesday morning, plenty of time to get completely wasted. The bouncer ran a tight ship, removing a red-faced guy in the crook of his elbow. Judging by the puke on the leather couch at the back of the club, somebody else also went home early. Too bad — they missed the excellent première show of Classified's cross-Canada tour.

Classified finally burst onto the stage in a hoodie and baggy jeans with "Find Out." J-Bru, Mic Boyd, DJ IV and Chad Hatcher on bongos joined Classified on stage, providing a one stop hip-hop shop of styles.

With 500 bodies heating up the room, Classified soon ditched his hoodie.

"Make some noise for hip-hop music," Classified shouted, the crowd obliging. With an old school vibe, Classified sang, "I made many decisions, I made many mistakes."

He fumbled through a two week old track that hasn't been mixed yet. "It's too new to remember the lyrics," J-Bru joked.

Then they broke out the hit "Hard To Be Hip Hop."

Classified covered "The Joker" by the Steve Miller Band and they proceeded to light up on stage. Plumes of pungent smoke floated from the audience with the mention of "midnight tokers."

The highlight was Chad Hatcher returning on acoustic for the song "All About U" with honest hip-hop lyrics and subtle beats.

"Respect good music," Classified said.

But to this crowd he might have better said, "Respect each other." The marijuana smoke, vomit and broken beer bottles littering the dance floor were over the top.

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3. COBBLESTONE JAZZ*
   23 Seconds (K7)
4. LUPE FIASCO
   The Cool (Atlantic)
5. VARIOUS*+
   All Your Ears Can Hear (AYECH)
6. OUTLAW SOCIAL*+
   Dry Bones (Independent)
7. TRISH CLAIR-PECK*
   Dawson's Tumble (Independent)
8. HOLY FUCK*
   LP (Young Turks)
9. QUARTETSKI DOES PROKOFIEV*
   Visions Fugitives Op. 22 (Ambiances Magnetiques)
10. VARIOUS
    Daptone Records Remixed - Scion CD Sampler Vol. 19 (Daptone)

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Brother, sister dominate Victoria Idol podium

Cloe Williams

Hundreds filled the Alix Goolden Hall for the much-anticipated Victoria Idol finale on Saturday, Jan. 19.

If contestants felt nervous when they stepped on stage at the immense church-turned-conservatory, they didn't show it.

Sydney Needham, 18, chose to go first and confidently strolled over to the mic to sing "This is the House that Jack Built," as the audience clapped to the beat. She finished third, behind first runner-up Al Ferraby and champion Spencer Needham, Sydney's 16-year-old brother.

Spencer is a student at Belmont Secondary School and the lead singer of District of Soul, an R&B band of young musicians. He stepped onto the stage in his sharp black suit with an electric blue shirt, and it was clear there was something unique about him.

When he opened his mouth and effortlessly sang "These are the Days" like an old pro, the competition was on. The judges described him as doing "vocal gymnastics" with his voice and having a "velvet sound." One judge even told him to "hurry up and make an album so I can buy it."

With the win, Spencer receives studio time with music producer Gordie Cheney to record a three-song demo.

Competition was tight. On the 25-point scale, there was only a difference of 0.5 points between first and second place, and 0.8 points between second and third. There were many powerful performances that completely captivated the audience.

"Everyone [had] a good shot at [winning] because each contestant has a different style," said contestant Ashley Armstrong.

Ferraby, who placed second and has more than 20 years of radio broadcasting under his belt, brought out the audience's emotions — a few people in the audience had tears in their eyes. As one judge put it, he gave "truly an amazing performance."

When Idol's youngest contestant, 13-year-old Ryley Bremner, took the stage the audience went wild. She lit up the decibel reader, which was used at the end of each performance to measure the amount of noise the audience made and counted for 25 per cent of each contestant's final score.

> "Hurry up and make an album so I can buy it."
> *– Victoria Idol judge*

April Reidie said her biggest challenge was "deciding on song choice." She sang a power ballad of "Open Arms," which was sultry and perfectly in tone.

Others chose more sentimental tunes. Long-time hockey player Remi Cote, 27, came out with his guitar and sang "That Song," a sweet and well-written ballad he wrote for a girlfriend.

Victoria Idol is completely run by volunteers, and its $80,000 in profits over the past three years have gone to the the Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society.

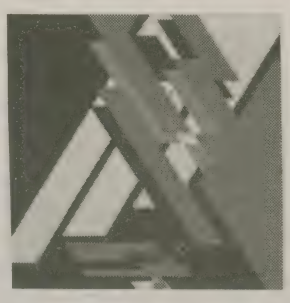
CLOE WILLIAMS PHOTO

Spencer Needham, 16, beat his older sister to win Victoria Idol.

CD REVIEW

Athlete's sound matured

Athlete
Beyond the Neighbourhood
EMI RECORDS



Gone are the days when a simple nod from Zach Braff in one of his soundtracks would set a band's career flying out of control. Londoners Joel Pott, Stephen Roberts, Carey Willetts and Tim Wanstall's third album, *Beyond the Neighbourhood*, may be just the thing to give them global appeal. The worldly-minded tracks speak of their awareness and focus on global issues.

The men finished a North American tour in the fall, receiving positive reviews although not quite gaining widespread fame. But after touring with big names, such as Beck and The Flaming Lips, their reputation is growing.

So is their musical maturity. While their debut album Vehicles and Animals had an upbeat pop feel, this album shows their evolution toward a more melancholy, yet stronger, sound.

Athlete seems to be moving in an electronically orchestral direction. The album's first track is exclusively instrumental, a nice introduction to this developing sound. Although the album is much deeper and darker, the band has managed to maintain their originality.

Anyone who listens to Athlete would be able to hear a track from this album and recognize them immediately, but then maybe pause and ask, "Was it especially rainy in London this year?"

Lines such as "Oh beautiful world, can I win you back?" express a grown-up attitude that many bands their own age lack. The question is whether or not this global-minded attitude and engaging mix of electronica and pop will be able to capture the average North American's heart.

Either way, Athlete may at least get beyond the neighbourhood.

- Trisha Gieni

Miss Martlet

Miss Martlet is away on holidays this week. Her column will return next week. Need advice? Send your questions to missmartlet@martlet.ca

"Help wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success."

attributed to
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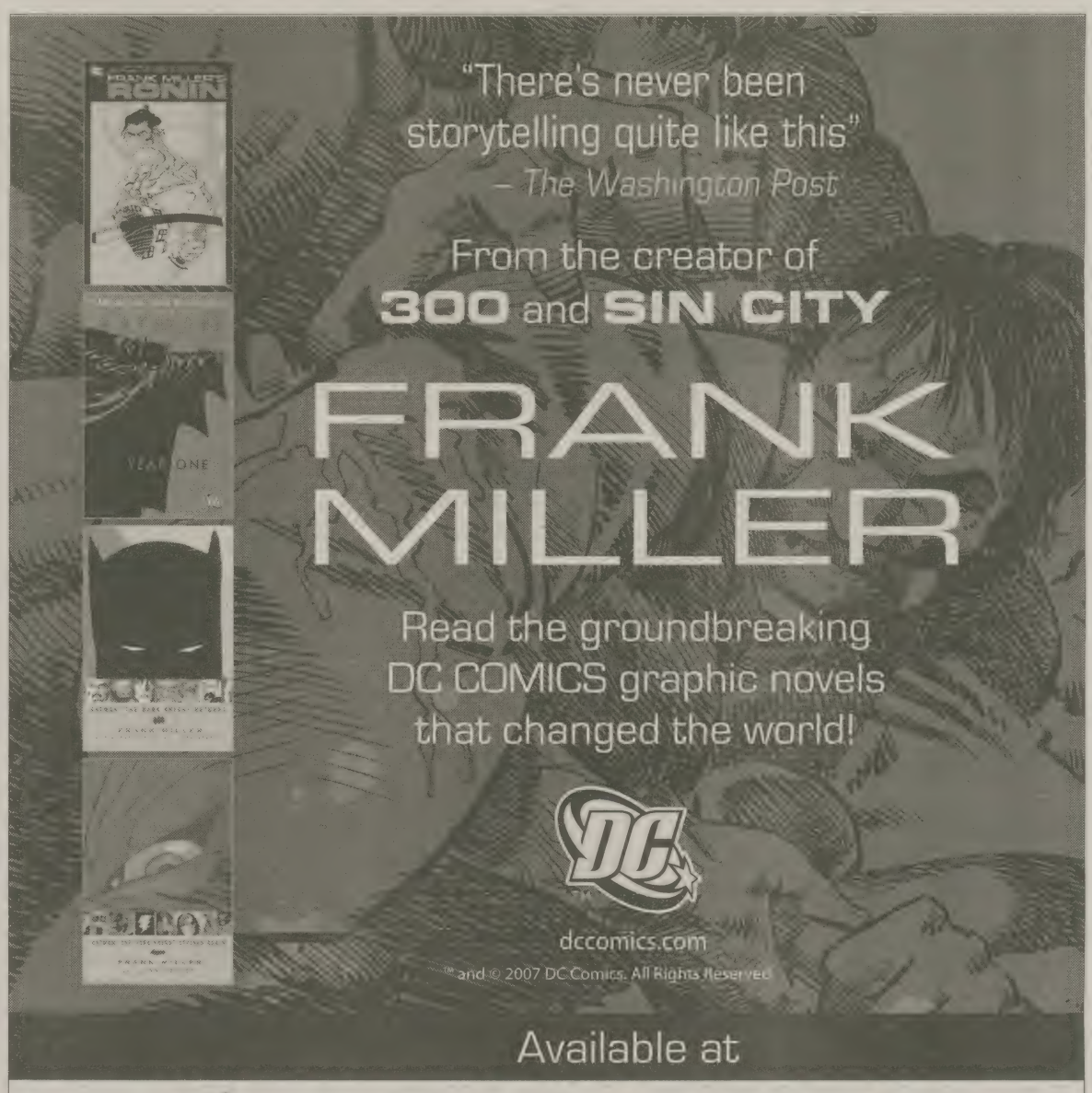
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PROVIDED PHOTO

View of Lake Washington from Kurt Cobain's former Seattle home, where film's interviews were conducted.

Film keeps Cobain alive

What: *Kurt Cobain: About a Son*
Where: Cinecenta
When: Jan. 30 and 31 @ 9:10 p.m.
How much: $4.75 to $6.75

Sam VanSchie

What about the late Kurt Cobain pushes directors to make art films about him?

Surely the Washington-born rock star, who died of a gun shot wound to his head in 1994 (murder or suicide, we'll never know), would have never wanted his death to become this famous. And he wouldn't want others to squeeze profits out of his private art, from his journal entries to unreleased recordings.

Still, director AJ Schnack made something beautiful in *Kurt Cobain: About a Son*. The hour-and-a-half-long movie plays like something that should be projected on the wall in the chill room of a rave, watched casually, used as background noise.

The film is an epic portrait of Cobain's short life told in his own words. Narration is pieced together exclusively from the 25 hours of never-before-heard interviews that music journalist Michael Azerrad had with Cobain while researching his book *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*. Cobain's voice doesn't sound right on Azerrad's shitty recorder; he should have used a more professional recording device had he known he'd be selling copies to a filmmaker.

Between Cobain's commentaries are clips from the music that influenced him, from The Vaselines to Iggy Pop. And all the while there are images of what he's talking about: beautiful shots of downtown Aberdeen, the house where he grew up, his old high school and the saw mill where his father worked. As Cobain's story continues, images move through Olympia and finally to Seattle, showing the Capitol Hill post office and phone booth where Cobain would score heroine, and the crowds that watched Cobain's spike of fame.

Watching this movie you'll get a sense of what it's like to actually be Cobain, see what he saw, listen to what he listened to, think what he thought. This is more than a documentary — it's an out of body experience.

Schnack does nothing one would expect in a film about a musician. There isn't a single Nirvana track in the movie, no cheesy zooming in on old photos and no impassioned memories told by family and friends. Only in the end will you see a shot of Cobain's face. This isn't a film for folks new to Cobain's story, but one for die-hard fans itching for a little more from the musician that died too soon.

CD REVIEW

Blues duo hits a modern key

The Pack A.D
Tintype
MINT RECORDS

Newly signed to Mint Records, Maya Miller and Becky Black, a not-so-stereotypical girl duo, are sure to impress modern blues fans and lovers of soulful, weathered vocals.

Heavily inspired by the American Civil War, coffee, bandits and blues singers such as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters and Leadbelly, these ladies have what it takes to produce one hell of a good hard-blues CD. A few of the tracks border on sheer noise, but they are cleverly and harmoniously balanced with the three delicate piano tunes: "Hardtrack Saloon" and the eerie "Bang" and "Got Up," that are so moving and melancholy that you can nearly smell the Jack Daniels and coffee on Black's breathe.

Her throaty vocals border on the modern tones of Karen O from the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Jack White, yet remain reminiscent to classics like John Lee Hooker and Blind Willie Johnson thoroughly. From start to finish, this disc is a hit at any point in the day, a modern blues legend and a gut-throbbing collection from two of Mint Records' finest.

The duo will be hitting up Vancouver, Austin and Nashville in the near future to kick off the disc, sure to blow a hole in new ears and live up to Nerve Magazine hailing these ladies as Vancouver's "Best Local Band" of 2007.

- Danielle Clarke

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Males tend to avoid yoga

Nik Wood
THE CHARLATAN

OTTAWA (CUP) — What do Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Jerry Seinfeld, Sting, Oprah, Christy Turlington and Shaq have in common? They all do yoga.

If you were to go by the Lululemon logos, 80 per cent of the female university student population is doing yoga. It is possible however, that not everyone in stretchy pants is down with the downward dog or sold on the sun salutation.

Most universities, however, now have hundreds, even thousands, of yoga participants on campus.

The seemingly sudden popularity of the yoga boom beguiles the fact that yoga has been around for a lot longer than spandex. There is evidence showing yoga has been around for some 5,000 years.

Traditionally yoga has been practiced by both sexes, but for some reason yoga seems to have been labeled as a female activity in North America. After all, toning and stretching are not exactly the stated fitness goals of the typical 20-year-old wannabe alpha-male.

Third-year Carleton University student Doug Miller cut his teeth on yoga this year and lamented the fact he is the only male in a class of 20.

"I think guys shouldn't be afraid to try," he said.

Suzanne Oliver, who has been teaching yoga at Carleton for ten years, has another theory about why more males do not do yoga.

"They probably think that they're going to be turned into a pretzel and so they're a little afraid to take it," she said.

But class participants said more men should take yoga because nobody would pass judgment.

Now that the pressure is off, and males need not be afraid of being judged for their lack of flexibility and core strength, perhaps there will be a swarm of new registrations.

Spandex is not necessary.

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T-Birds down Vikes to gain division lead

UBC too big, too strong for UVic

Max Sussman

The UBC Thunderbirds ended the UVic men's basketball team's perfect home record with a thrilling 79-76 victory on Jan. 18. The win broke a tie between the two teams for first place in the Pacific Division of the Canada West Conference.

Vikes big man Mitch Gudgeon was in foul trouble for most the game, thanks mostly to T-Birds centre Bryson Kool, who had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

In his return to the starting lineup, T-Birds leading scorer Chris Dyck led four T-Birds in double-digits with 25 points. UBC also used their huge height advantage to keep UVic down.

Both teams were sloppy early. The T-Birds gave UVic the opportunity to take an early lead, but outrebounded the Vikes to end the first quarter up by one.

"We really got hurt on the offensive glass," said Vikes coach Craig Beaucamp.

Usually the defensive power, the Vikes experienced a role reversal when UBC used a zone defence to slow them down. UVic shot themselves in the foot repeatedly, turning the ball over 17 times in the game.

"I thought their defence took us out of our game in the first half," said Beaucamp.

After cutting the deficit to four late in the third, the Vikes went into the fourth quarter down eight. Dyck then went on a 5-0 run, and the Vikes were down 13.

In the game's waning moments, Vikes Brandon Dunlop and Rob Kinnear gave one final push, attempting to carry their team to the win. Kinnear had nine points in the fourth quarter, ending the game with 13 points and eight rebounds. He brought the standing room only crowd to its feet with a three-pointer that tightened the score to within two with 2:25 left in the game.

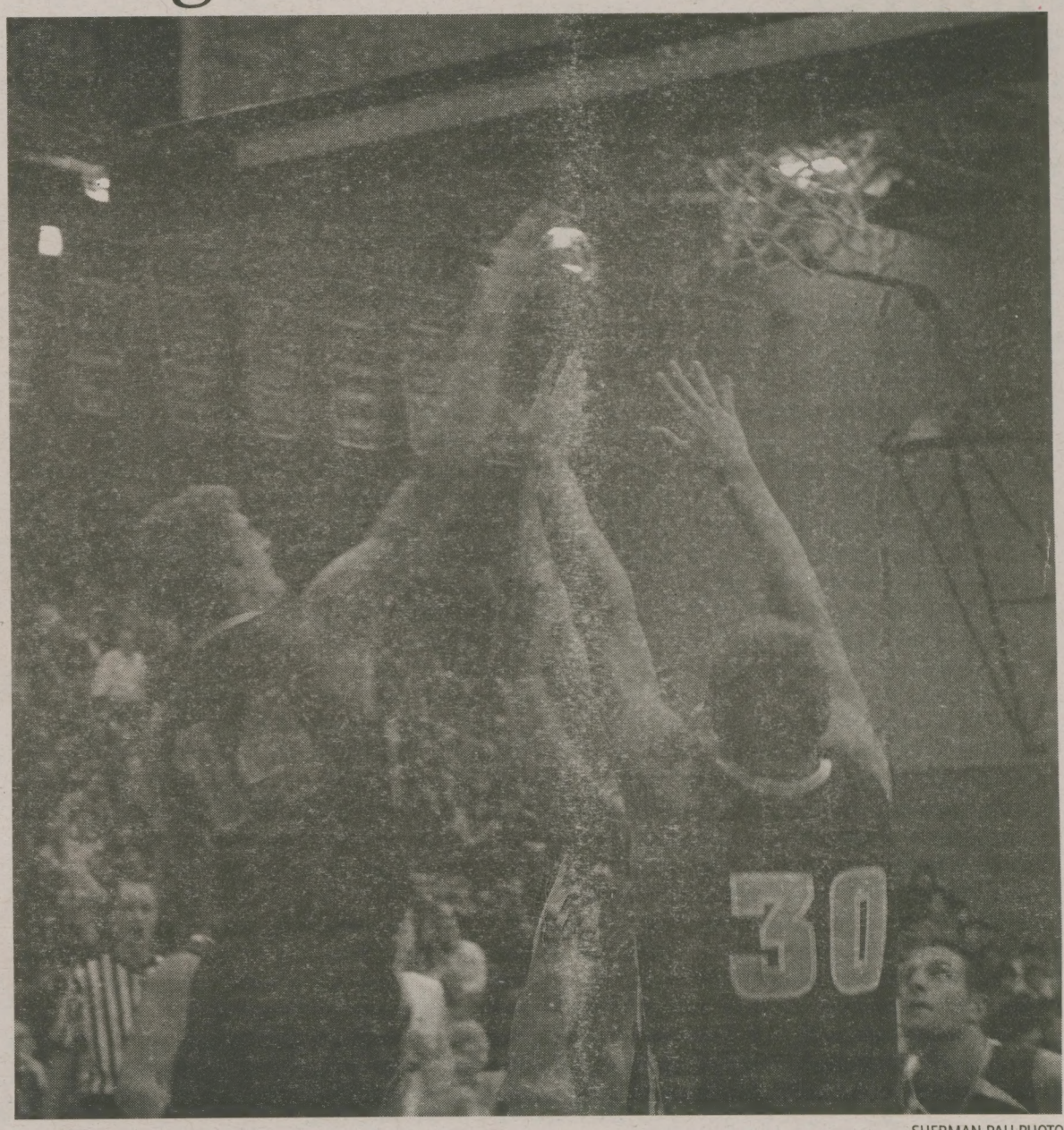
Mitch Gudgeon, usually the Vikes leading scorer, played only 27 minutes because of his early foul trouble caused by the six-foot-eight, 240-pound Kool. The UBC giant brought a physicality the Vikes couldn't handle.

"They did a good job getting the ball inside and our interior defence wasn't where it needed to be," said Beaucamp. "We were scrambling."

As usual, Tyler Hass was a star for the Vikes. The six-foot-six forward led the way with 21 points, 6 rebounds and three assists, keeping UVic within striking distance for most of the game. Hass's hustle earned him the admiration of his coach.

"He played hard and competed through every whistle," Beaucamp said. "He's one hell of a competitor."

Next up, the Vikes battle it out against the Simon Fraser University Clan on Jan. 25 and 26 in Burnaby.



SHERMAN PAU PHOTO

UBC's Matt Rachar (left) says, "No hoop for you," to Vikes forward Mitch Gudgeon.

UPCOMING GAMES:

Men's hockey: Vikes vs. Trinity Western
Ian Stewart Complex
Jan. 25 @ 10:20 p.m.
Jan. 26 @ 9:30 p.m.

Men's field hockey: Vikes vs. United Brothers
Field hockey pitch
Jan. 27 @ 1:30 p.m.

Men's rugby: Vikes vs Velox
Centennial Stadium
Jan. 25 @ 7 p.m.

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Thunderbirds stuff Vikes

Women lose 11th straight game against UBC

Ashly Kissman

The UBC Thunderbirds women's basketball team snapped UVic's four-game winning streak, beating the Vikes 55-45 on Jan. 18.

Despite the final score, the third-ranked Vikes played a tight game against the second-ranked team in the Canada West conference.

UBC led 15-13 at the end of the first quarter before UVic started to take control. The Vikes upped the pace in the second quarter, increasing their intensity and their scoring. Vikes point guard Michelle Lee stood out with quick shots and great assists, and UVic's zone defence was effective against the Thunderbirds. The only offence UBC was able to muster in the quarter was off fast breaks.

UVic forward Kayla Dykstra, who scored a game-high of 17 points, and centre Janet Hatfield were forces inside the key. By halftime, UVic led 27-20. The Vikes seemed on pace to add another victory to their winning streak.

But the second half opened with a vengeance. UBC intensified their defensive strategy of blocking shots and adjusted their game plan to attack the weak links in the Vikes' defence. As a result, the Thunderbirds started cutting into UVic's lead, finishing the third quarter behind 39-35.

The fourth quarter opened with two quick shots by UBC, tying the game. UVic's zone defence cracked as UBC continuously scored with easy layups. The T-Birds secured their lead, out-scoring UVic 20-6 in the final quarter to win the game 55-45.

"In the first half, Victoria was the better team," said UBC coach Deb Huband. "But in the second half, we made some adjustments — made some key rebounds and key shots — to turn the game around in our favour."

UBC guard Erica McGuinness was a key player in getting the T-Birds back in the game.

She tied for the team lead with 14 points, and her quick jump shots played a major role in the T-Bird victory.

Vikes coach Brian Cheng said he was disappointed with UVic's loss, adding the Vikes lost their momentum trying to keep up with UBC's experienced squad.

BC Internship program
Apply on line at www.leg.bc.ca
Deadline – January 31, 2008

Carole James
MLA Victoria-Beacon Hill

Carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca

CANADA WEST STANDINGS-PACIFIC DIVISION

Women

	GP	W	L	PTS
Simon Fraser	18	17	1	34
UBC	17	15	2	30
Victoria	17	10	7	20
UCFV	18	9	9	18
Trinity Western	18	8	10	16
Thompson Rivers	18	1	17	2

Men

	GP	W	L	PTS
UBC	17	13	4	26
Victoria	17	12	5	24
Simon Fraser	18	9	9	18
UCFV	18	8	10	16
Trinity Western	18	6	12	12
Thompson Rivers	18	2	16	4

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Life After Christmas: Dead of Winter Costume Carnival

7-11 p.m.
Victoria Event Centre, 1415 Broad St.

A fundraiser for the Nana Foundation to benefit injured and abused animals featuring performances by Meatdraw, Slut Revolver, Miss Bettina May, & an appearance by Lily Fawn and Hank Pine. There will be door prizes, silent movies, face painting, and many surprises!

Tickets available at Legends Comics & Books, 633 Johnson St.

Fee: $10
Info: Duane Soebagio
screamwriter@shaw.ca,
995-0286

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Drop Dead BC

Noon
Center Fountain, Uvic

In support of the National Non-Smoking Week, BC post secondary institutions and school districts across BC will be hosting a "drop dead" event, representing the 6,000 British Columbians that die tobacco related deaths each year; that's 16 per day.

All students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to gather at the meeting point and time designated at their campus or school to "drop dead" (lay down and play dead for 60 seconds). Media will be invited to this peaceful event. We are looking to get a minimum of 6,000 participants accross BC.

Register your support at http://demo.cleanaircoalitionbc.com. Please RSVP for this event through the facebook event "Drop Dead BC," or e-mail unsickuvic@gmail.com with "DROP DEAD participant" in the subject title. Please indicate the campus(es) you are involved with.

Fee: Free
Info: Robert Obara
unsickuvic@gmail.com

Inspiration from the Natural World

8p.m.
McPherson Playhouse

New contemporary compositions by 6 composers are performed by the Victoria Symphony, featuring flautist Mark McGregor and percussionist Masako Hockey. Tania Miller conducts.

Fee: $9.50, Adults $12.50
Info: 385-6515
www.victoriasymphony.ca

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Reel Music 3

8p.m.
Royal Theatre,

2 original films, 8 composers, 1 incredible competition. Eight composers present new works written for two original silent films. The Victoria Symphony performs the original compositions with the silent films. Through audience participation, a juried selection and the filmmakers' input, two of the new compositions will be chosen as the scores for the films.

Fee: $9.50, Adults $12.50
Info: 385-6515
www.victoriasymphony.ca

WHIPS - Write Here In Plain Sight

10:00-3:00 p.m.
David F. Strong Building

On Saturday, January 26, 2008 UVic will join Dalhousie to create a coast to coast WHIPS event. It is a radical experiment in the teaching and celebration of academic and professional writing. Five volunteer faculty members and Jack Knox, who writes for the Times Colonist, will write for three hours in complete public view in six classrooms equipped with video-data projectors. Students and community members are invited to ask questions, and watch the different ways these writers write.

Fee: Free
Info:250) 472-4798
lauriews@uvic.ca

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

The 2008 UVic Student Leadership Conference

9:00-4:30p.m.
David F. Strong Building

Whether you are a seasoned student leader or just looking for a way to get more involved on campus you will find information and opportunities at the conference. All UVic students are eligible to attend.

Fee: $20 registration fee.
Info: http://stas.uvic.ca/leadership/conference

Soundwalk

10:30-noon
Meet at Open Space, 510 Fort Street

Sound artist Tina M. Pearson leads an outdoor Soundwalk in the Victoria waterfront area. Soundwalk is an opportunity to focus on and listen to all the sounds in a particular soundscape as one moves though it in a group.

Fee: By donation
Info: www.openspace.ca

Music Performance

7:30p.m.
Alix Gooden Hall, 907 Pandora,

UVic Sonic Lab performs IN C by Terry Riley with special guests Gordon Mumma, live electronics and Jee Yeon Ryu.

Fee: Students $7, Adults $9
At the door or at VCM office
Info: www.vcm.bc.ca/eventlistings.htm

Standing Wave

2:30p.m.
McPherson Playhouse

Spend the afternoon with Vancouver's Standing Wave, an ensemble of five exceptional musicians performing contemporary music with virtuosity and style.

Fee: student $9.50, Adults $12.50
Info: 385-6515
www.victoriasymphony.ca

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

Quantal Strife Sound Event

8p.m.
Open Space

A one night discourse between the Open Space visual arts installation Quantal Strife and a sound performance inspired and limited by the installation.

Fee: $8/$10
Info: www.openspace.ca

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

Info Session for NEED Crisis and Information Line

6:30-7:30 p.m.
B028, Student Union

Come by and find out more about NEED Crisis and Information Line.

Fee: Free
Info: 386-6329 Ext:222
volunteerservices@needcrisis.bc.ca

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

Career Fair 2008 - Your Future at Work.

10:00-3:30p.m.
Student Union Building
Come to the Student Union Building Jan 30 & 31 and find connections to summer, co-op and career opportunities.

Fee: Free
Info: http://www.careerfair.uvic.ca
Shonna Wells at 592-4145

Exam Anxiety Help

This month, eligible UVIC students have an opportunity to receive free treatment, as participants in a research project that has just begun on campus.

Complete information can be found on the web at www.testanxiety.ca, where students can confidentially apply online.

Please note that UVIC Counselling Services and UVIC Health Services, both on Campus, also provide free assistance to students with anxiety or other physical and emotional issues.

Info: testanxiety@shaw.ca
413-3273

Don't despair — the Martlet crossword and sudoku will return next week.

BILLBOARD

SERVICES

ROOF AND GUTTER Inspection, repairs, re-roofing, power washing, 380-5685.

VOLUNTEER / GET INVOLVED

Volunteer with us. NEED Crisis and Information Line. 386-6328 / www.needcrisis.bc.ca

To submit an event, please email: promo@martlet.ca by Monday

Manage our forests and enjoy a rewarding career.

The **Forest Resources Technology** program at Malaspina University-College will give you the training to:

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MEET THE SPARTANS

www.meetthespartans.com

JANUARY 25 ONLY IN THEATRES

Comics

Noosehead

NOOSEHEAD
©2007 BY SAM LOGAN.
READ THEM ALL AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM
SIR! YOU'VE GOT FORTY-ONE NEW MESSAGES... ALL OF THEM ANGRY!
WILLIS...
LAWYERS, PARENT GROUPS, RECORD EXECS, CONGRESSMEN...
WILLIS!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE?
THREE WEEKS, SIR.
AND HOW MANY OTHER RECEPTIONISTS HAVE I HAD, BEFORE YOU?
TWENTY-SEVEN?
TWENTY-NINE. KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE THEY'RE ALWAYS GIVING ME BAD NEWS. I DON'T LIKE BAD NEWS. AND WHEN I HEAR TOO MUCH OF IT, I GET IN A FIRING MOOD.
SO, TELL ME AGAIN... HOW MANY MESSAGES DO I HAVE?
NONE, SIR. NO MESSAGES AT ALL.
GOOD. BUT NEXT TIME, TRY TO MAKE UP A FEW NICE-SOUNDING ONES. I DON'T LIKE FEELING UNPOPULAR, EITHER.

Checkerpop!!

by Mark Junker

(it doesn't have to make sense)

DATING A CLOWN

by David Karp

"Why do I get the feeling that you're not taking me seriously?"

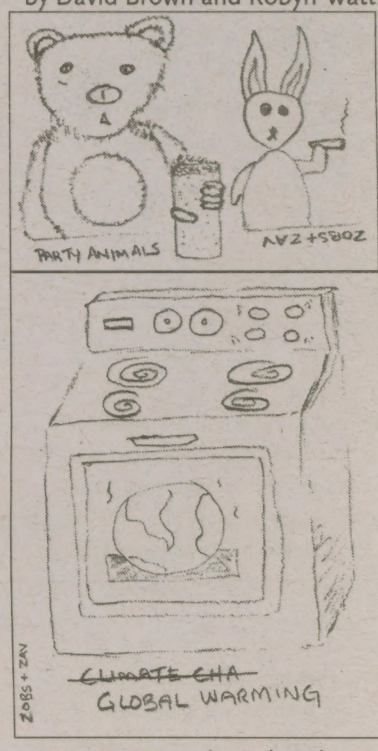
DAVE

by David Weigham

Dave tried to get to the not so convenient store

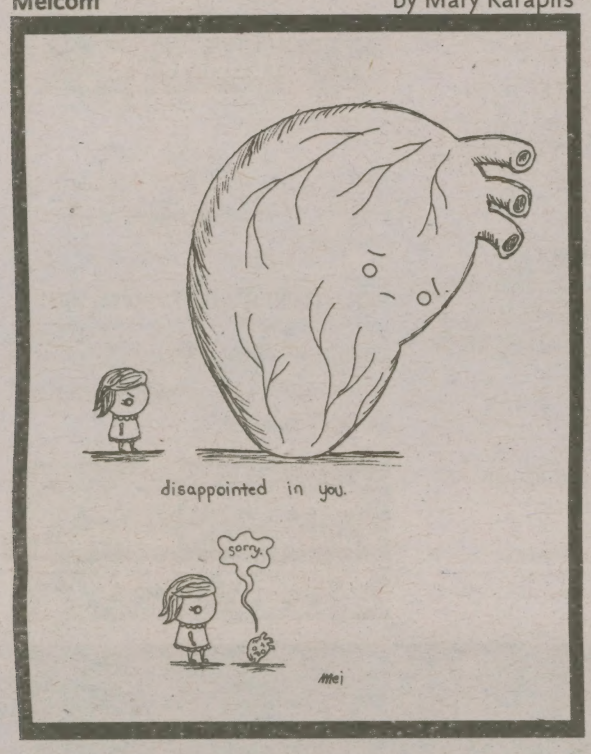
The Strip

by David Brown and Robyn Watt



Meicom

by Mary Karaplis



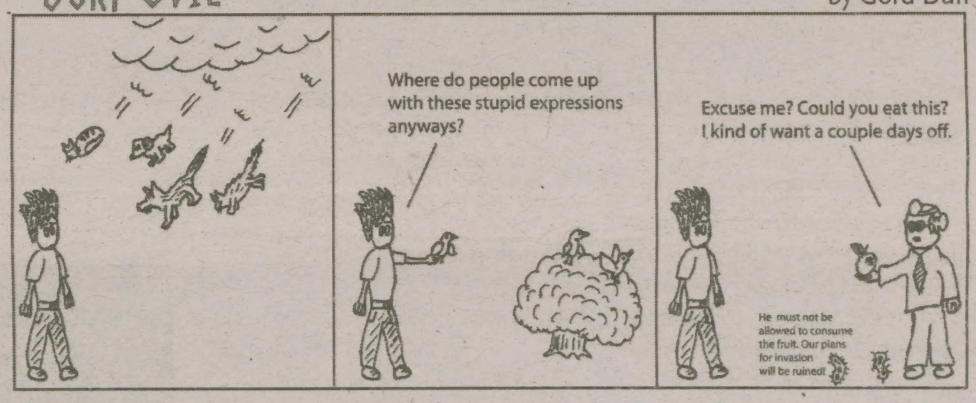
CITIZENS PROFOUND

by Joe Darius

HEY JASON, I JUST FINISHED PLANNING JORDAN'S SURPISE BIRTHDAY PARTY.
NICE PAT, LET ME SEE.
- Get Andrew to tell Jordan that he can sneak her into a club on saturday
- Have Andrew pick her up and go to Jason's house to "pick something up"
- Surprise party at Jason's house!
I LIKE IT!
Saturday night
SURPRISE!
OH, ARE YOU GUYS GOING CLUBBING TOO?! THIS IS GOING TO BE SO FUN! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'LL BE ABLE TO GET IN WHEN I'M NOT EVEN 18 YET!
I BROUGHT TWISTER...

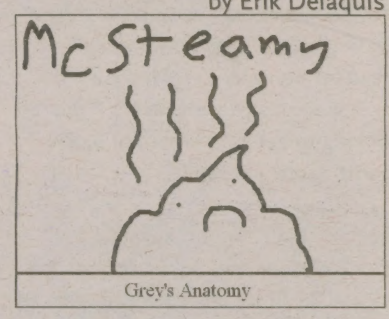
CORP EVIL

by Gord Duff


Where do people come up with these stupid expressions anyways?
Excuse me? Could you eat this? I kind of want a couple days off.
He must not be allowed to consume the fruit. Our plans for invasion will be ruined!

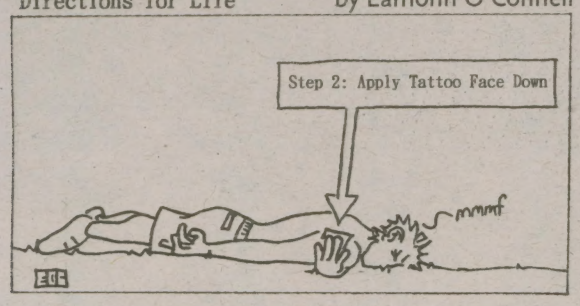
McSteamy

by Erik Delaquis



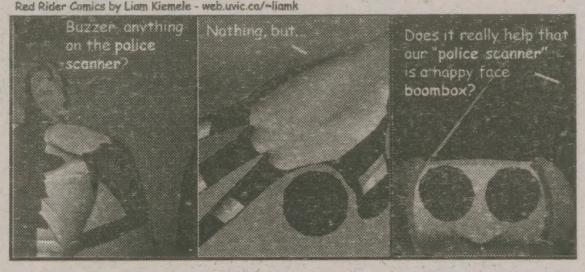
Directions for Life

by Eamonn O'Connell



Red Rider Comics

by Liam Kiemele - web.uvic.ca/~liamk

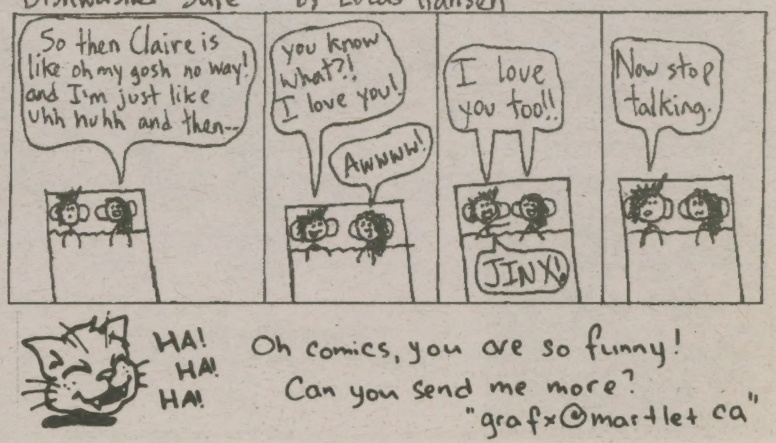


hyperblender

by Mike Bison

Dishwasher Safe

by Lucas Hansen


So then Claire is like oh my gosh no way! and I'm just like uhh huhh and then--
you know what?! I love you!
AWWWW!
I love you too!!
JINX!
Now stop talking.
HA! HA! HA!
Oh comics, you are so funny! Can you send me more? "grafx@martlet.ca"

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SUN 2:30, 7:00 & 9:10
MON 7:00 & 9:10